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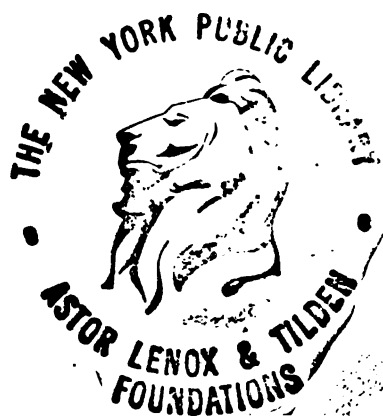
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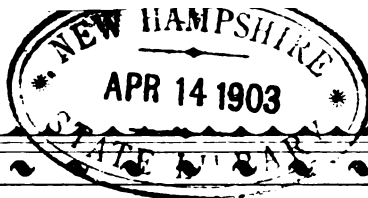
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# Thirty-Fourth Annual Conclave



1894.



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THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

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—OF THE—

# GRAND COMMANDERY

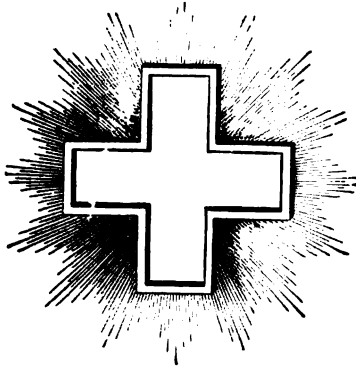
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,

—OF THE—

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

—HELD AT—

HOLLY SPRINGS, FEBRUARY 13 and 14, 1894.



JACKSON, MISS.:

THE CLARION-LEDGER PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1894.

37A12.113  
V9A98L1



... THE ...  
THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GRAND CONCLAVE  
WILL BE HELD IN WEST POINT,  
**On the second Tuesday in February, 1895, com-  
mencing at 10 o'clock A. M.**

# GRAND COMMANDERY.

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## THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE.

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**T**HE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI assembled in its Thirty-Fourth Annual Conclave in the Asylum of Holly Springs Commandery No. 4, in the city of Holly Springs, on Monday, February 13, 1894, at 4 o'clock P. M.

### PRESENT.

R.. E.. SIR S. W. FERGUSON.....GRAND COMMANDER.  
V.. E.. SIR J. C. FRENCH.....DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER.  
SIR JAMES T. HARRISON, J. W.....AS GRAND GENERALISSIMO.  
E.. SIR F. P. JINKINS.....GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL.  
REV. SIR N. G. AUGUSTUS.....GRAND PRELATE.  
E.. SIR J. M. BUCHANAN.....GRAND SENIOR WARDEN.  
SIR J. W. POWER.....AS GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN.  
E.. SIR GUS. J. BAHIN.....GRAND TREASURER.  
E.. SIR J. L. POWER.....GRAND RECORDER.  
SIR W. X. WILSON.....AS GRAND STANDARD BEARER.  
SIR GEO. C. MYERS.....AS GRAND SWORD BEARER.  
SIR JOHN S. COBB.....AS GRAND WARDER.  
SIR M. H. LEACH.....AS GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.

The following Grand Officers being absent:

E.. SIR WM. CROSS.....GRAND GENERALISSIMO.  
E.. SIR E. C. CARROLL.....GRAND STANDARD BEARER.  
E.. SIR EDWIN WRIGHT.....GRAND SWORD BEARER.  
E.. SIR G. A. SMALSHAF.....GRAND WARDER.  
E.. SIR JOHN SCHLOTTMAN.....GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.

### PAST GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

JOHN K. FULSON.....PAST GRAND COMMANDER.  
E. GEO. DELAP.....PAST GRAND COMMANDER.  
PHINEAS M. SAVERY.....PAST GRAND COMMANDER.  
WILLIAM G. PAXTON.....PAST GRAND COMMANDER.  
FREDERIC SPEED.....PAST GRAND COMMANDER.

**GRAND REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.**

REV. N. G. AUGUSTUS.....	Grand Commandery of Alabama.
J. C. FRENCH.....	Grand Commandery of Georgia.
WM. G. PAXTON, P.G.C.....	Grand Commandery of Illinois.
WM. STARLING.....	Grand Commandery of Indiana.
FREDERIC SPEED, P.G.C.....	Grand Commandery of Iowa.
C. L. LINCOLN.....	Grand Commandery of Maine.
J. L. POWER.....	Grand Commandery of Missouri.
R. B. BRANNIN,.....	Grand Commandery of Montana.
REV. JOHN A. B. JONES.....	Grand Commandery of Ohio.
WM. STARLING.....	Grand Commander of Tennessee.
G. J. BAHIN.....	Grand Commandery of Texas.
R. B. BRANNIN.....	Grand Commandery Wyoming.

Also present the Representatives of eleven Subordinate Commanderies, and a number of visitors from Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4; De Molay Commandery, No. 8; Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10, and Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17.

The Grand Commandery was opened in Ample and Knightly Form.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced as the

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS—Sirs C. W. Bolton, John K. Fulson and W. X. Wilson.

Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed suggested that a telegram of fraternal sympathy be sent to the family of Grand Master Irvin Miller, and he was requested to prepare the same, which he did, as follows:

HOLLY SPRINGS, February 13, 1894.

*Mrs. A. M. Graham, Walnut Grove, Miss.:*

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar, by unanimous vote, direct me to convey warmest sympathy to your father, with the prayer that God will yet raise the Grand Master and spare his life to his family and to his many loving friends.

FREDERIC SPEED.

The R. E. Grand Commander then read his address, as follows:

**ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDER.**

*Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery:*

With courteous greetings I welcome you to the 34th Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi and give thanks that a kind Providence permits so many of us to again meet and exchange those Knightly courtesies which make our Conclaves so charming. May the All-Wise guard and guide us now.

The financial distress which has prevailed over the whole country during the past year, has had its inevitable depressing influence on our Order, and prevented that increase in our ranks which we would otherwise undoubtedly have had. I feel assured, however, that though we have gained but slightly in numerical strength, we have progressed in zeal and earnest endeavor to reach the true standard of a Knight Templar.



## NECROLOGY.

The members of this Grand Body have all been spared to be among the living, and the deaths among the Subordinate Commanderies have been few. I note with regret that Past Grand Commander W. P. Towler, Past Eminent Commander of Grenada Commandery, No. 15, died at Jackson, Tennessee, on March 30th, 1893. He was a true and zealous Mason, and though removed from this Jurisdiction, kept up a warm and constant interest in our proceedings and progress. I recommend that a committee be appointed to prepare and submit appropriate resolutions.

## DISPENSATIONS.

I have granted dispensations as follows:

To Magnolia Commandery, No. 1, to ballot for Companion Albert A. Arnold, at a special Conclave, February 20, 1893.

To Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17, to act on the applications of Companions J. C. Brown and Edgar Wilson, at regular Conclave, April 23d, without waiting the usual time. Also to act on applications of Companions J. L. Shell and W. J. Plunkett, at special Conclave, December 28.

To Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, to attend divine service on Ascension Day in full uniform.

To DeMolay Commandery, No. 8, to act upon application of Companion Charles Gilman McKee at special Conclave, August 8th.

To Mississippi Commandery, No. 1, to ballot and confer degrees on Companions J. F. Robinson, B. C. Lemly, A. J. Chapman, R. V. Ratchford, at special Conclave February 12, 1894.

## TEMPLAR LAW.

In November last I received from Sir Richard Lambert, Grand Recorder Knights Templar of Louisiana, a courteous application for waiver of jurisdiction, to permit Jacques DeMolay Commandery, of New Orleans, to confer the degrees of Knighthood upon Companion E. J. Bowers, a citizen of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, but a Companion of a Louisiana Commandery.

Being in doubt as to my authority, I referred the matter to Sir Frederic Speed, Chairman of Committee on Templar Law. I submit herewith Sir Speed's reply, and also the reply of Sir Lambert to my letter informing him of Sir Speed's decision, and I recommend that this Grand Body provide for similar contingencies.

## OFFICIAL VISITATIONS.

I regret that it has not been in my power to visit officially all the Commanderies of this Jurisdiction. I have visited Mississippi, No. 1, and Magnolia, No. 2. On both occasions the notice of my coming was so short, and so many members of each Commandery lived at points distant from their Asylums, the attendance was necessarily small. However, the kindness with which I was received, and the interest manifested, compensated for lack of numbers, and I am indebted to the Sir Knights of these Commanderies for two very delightful evenings in their company.

Once more I thank you, Comrades, for the high honor of having been chosen your Commander. Mine has indeed been an office of love. No single incident has occurred to mar its pleasure. My only regret on the completion of my labors is that they have not been more efficiently done.

S. W. FERGUSON, Grand Commander.

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NEW ORLEANS, November 14, 1893.

*Grand Commander Knights Templar, Greenville, Miss.:*

FRATER—Companion E. J. Bowers, of Bay St. Louis, Miss., was initiated, passed and raised in Corinthian Lodge, of this city, after the Lodge in Mississippi had waived jurisdiction. After a time he passed through the several degrees in Concord K. A. Chapter, No. 2 (also of this city). He now applies for the orders in Jacques De Molay Commandery, No. 2, of this city, and at their request I write you for permission for that Commandery to receive his petition and if elected to confer the orders upon him. There being no Commandery in Bay St. Louis, we do not know what Commandery has jurisdiction—if any—over him, and so apply direct to you.

Hoping for a prompt and favorable reply, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

RICHARD LAMBERT,  
Grand Recorder Grand Commandery Louisiana.

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VICKSBURG, MISS., December 2, 1893.

*Gen. S. W. Ferguson, Grand Commander, Greenville, Miss.:*

MY DEAR GENERAL—My time has been so completely absorbed in court matters for several weeks past that I have neglected my Masonic correspondence and have only just been able to give a moment to the consideration of the question submitted in your esteemed favor of the 15th inst.

I find no authority under the statutes of the Grand Encampment or our own laws for the *Grand Commander* to waive jurisdiction—that power is vested in the *Commandery* under whose jurisdiction the party lives. As each Commandery in this State covers the entire State, there being no jurisdictional lines, as between our Commanderies, I am at a loss to know how to proceed in such a matter as is now presented. I am clear you have no authority over the matter. The nearest Commandery has no more right to waive jurisdiction over the party than the furthest. It is simply a case not provided for by this Grand Commandery.

I do not think any one would complain, in such a case, if a New Orleans Commandery were to proceed and give him the orders, but of course it would have no right to do so. When the Grand Commandery meets we can pass a resolution to cover the case.

Courteously yours,

FREDERIC SPEED.

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NEW ORLEANS, December 8, 1893.

*Gen. S. W. Ferguson, R. E. Grand Commander, Greenville, Miss.:*

DEAR SIR AND FRATER—Yours of the 4th inst., and enclosure of Sir Knight Frederic Speed, was duly received. As requested I return herewith Sir Knight Speed's decision as Chairman Committee on Templar Law. I hope your Grand Commandery at its next Conclave may take such action as will allow waiver of

jurisdiction in certain cases. Our Grand Commandery has no law on the subject, either. With kindest regards,

Courteously yours,  
RICHARD LAMBERT, Grand Recorder.

On motion of Past Grand Commander Wm. G. Paxton, the address was ordered spread on the minutes, and referred—

1st. So much as relations to Dispensations, to the Committee on Templar Law.

2d. So much as relates to Necrology, to a committee of three.

Whereupon the Grand Commander announced as said Committee, Sirs John A. B. Jones, W. B. Walker and W. X. Wilson.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Committee on Credentials submitted the following which was received and the committee continued:

*To the Grand Commandery:*

Your Committee on Credentials beg leave to report that the several Subordinate Commanderies are represented as follows:

MISSISSIPPI, No. 1—

Wm. B. Taylor, Captain-General, Representative.

MAGNOLIA, No. 2—

Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Representative.

HOLLY SPRINGS, No. 4—

Geo. C. Myers, Eminent Commander.

W. B. Bradberry, Captain-General.

ROSALIE, No. 5—

C. F. Merrick, Representative.

ST. CYR, No. 6—

John K. Fulson, P.G.C., Representative.

DEMOLOY, No. 8—

C. L. Lincoln, Eminent Commander.

B. A. Weaver, Captain-General.

T. B. Franklin, proxy for Generalissimo.

CYRENE, No. 9—

J. M. Buchanan, P.E.C., proxy for Eminent Commander.

A. J. Peck, Captain-General.

IVANHOE, No. 10—

N. G. Augustus, Eminent Commander.

John S. Cobb, Generalissimo.

COUR DE LION—

John A. B. Jones, Representative.

DELTA, No. 16—

William Starling, Eminent Commander.

ABERDEEN, No. 17—

Wm. B. Walker, Eminent Commander.

Your Committee are also pleased to note the presence of the following Sir Knights from different Commanderies:

James T. Fant, P.E.C., M. H. Leach, P.E.C., J. W. Stephenson, Ebenezer Thompson, A. D. McCluskey, T. W. Lewis, S. H. Pryor, J. G. Leach, J. H. Morgan, J. A. B. Watts, J. M. Davis, G. C. Hoskins, Chas. H. Keim, J. M. Brooks, J. W. Keyes, W. X. Wilson, C. W. Bolton.

Fraternally submitted,

C. W. BOLTON,  
JOHN K. FULSON,  
W. X. WILSON,  
Committee.

#### REPORT OF GRAND RECORDER.

The Grand Recorder submitted his annual report, as follows:

*To the R. E. Commandery of Mississippi:*

I have the honor of submitting my Twenty-fourth Annual Report as your Grand Recorder. The receipts for the year 1892, are as follows:

Mississippi Commandery, No. 1, dues 1892.....	\$ 71 00
Magnolia Commandery, No. 2, dues 1892, in part.....	8 10
St. Cyr Commandery, No. 6, dues 1892 .....	101 00
DeMolay Commandery, No. 8, dues 1892 .....	63 00
DeMolay Commandery, No. 8, balance on 1891.....	27 00
Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, dues 1892 .....	60 00
Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10, dues 1892 .....	91 00
Cour de Lion Commandery, No. 13, dues 1892.....	12 00
Delta Commandery, No. 16, dues 1891 and 1892.....	60 00
E. W. Tarrant, of late Lexington Commandery, No. 3.....	2 00

\$ 495 10

The following tabulated statement shows the work of the Commanderies for the year 1893:

#### RECAPITULATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

COMMANDERY.	No.	Knighted.	Affiliated.	Reinstated.	Dimitted.	Died.	Suspended, Dues.	Suspended, U. C.	Total Members.	Total Dues.
Mississippi.....	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	33	\$ 42 00
Magnolia.....	2	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	52	71 00
Holly Springs.....	4	5	1	...	...	1	17	...	19	44 00
Rosalie.....	5	5	1	1	3	2	...	...	61	86 00
St. Cyr.....	6	5	...	1	5	...	...	...	48	73 00
De Molay.....	8	2	...	...	2	3	4	...	31	41 00
Cyrene.....	9	6	...	...	...	...	3	...	40	68 00
Ivanhoe.....	10	9	...	1	...	...	2	...	43	84 00
Cour de Lion.....	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12 00
Delta.....	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18 00
Aberdeen.....	17	12	...	...	...	2	2	...	30	90 00
		48	2	3	10	9	31	....	387	\$629 00

The number knighted is less than in the preceding year, which was a Triennial. There are usually more orders conferred in Triennial than in other years. The Commanderies, so far as I can learn, are in a fairly prosperous condition. We may soon look for a petition for a new Commandery at Brookhaven.

On September 14th I received from the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment the Cypher Ritual adopted at Denver. I distributed one copy to each Commandery, and one to each of the four principal Grand Officers. I have had several applications for extra copies; but it is the order of the Grand Encampment that each Commandery shall have but one copy.

Grand Representatives have been commissioned during the year as follows:

March 11—Sir Wm. L. Buechner, of Youngstown, Ohio, near the Grand Commandery of Ohio.

March 18—Received commission for Rev. Sir N. G. Augustus as Representative Grand Commandery of Alabama, near Mississippi.

March 18—Notified by Sir Peter Zeniager, Birmingham, of acceptance of commission as Representative to Grand Commandery of Alabama.

April 5—Issued commission to Em. Sir John C. Davis, of Raidius, Wyoming, in place of Sir Dickey, who holds a commission from another jurisdiction.

April 3—Received re-appointment of Sir John A. B. Jones as Representative Grand Commandery of Ohio.

April 13—Received re-appointment of Sir Robert B. Brannin by the Grand Commandery of Wyoming.

April 20—Received commission for Sir C. L. Lincoln as Representative of the Grand Commandery of Maine.

May 8—Issued commission to Sir Levi B. French, Yankton, South Dakota, renewal.

May 15—Received commission for Sir Wm. G. Sykes as Representative of the Grand Commandery of South Dakota, dated May 13.

June 16—Issued commission to Sir Reginald Heber Thompson, Louisville, as our Representative near the Grand Commandery of Kentucky.

June 19—Forwarded to Past Grand Commander H. M. Romberger, Water Valley, renewal commission as Representative of the Grand Commandery of Minnesota, dated April 21.

June 28—Issued commission to Sir Charles H. Mox, Crookston, Minn., as Grand Representative, to succeed Sir C. L. Spaulding, removed from State and non-affiliated.

October 28—Recommissioned Sir Geo. Cook as Representative of the Grand Commandery near the Grand Commandery of Maryland.

November 7—Forwarded to Sir Frank Burkitt re-appointment as Representative of the Grand Commandery of Maryland.

November 17—Notified the Grand Commandery of Nebraska that Grand Representative Wm. H. Stewart died June 16, 1891, and suggested as his successor, Sir G. Smalshaf, of Cyrene No. 9, and he was accordingly commissioned November 29.

December 1—Notified by Sir Wm. B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder, Virginia, that Sir John T. Parham was accredited to this Grand Commandery August 5, 1889, and that in Virginia commissions are limited to pleasure of Grand Commander;

also that the commission to Sir Martin Marshall, near this Grand Commandery, bears date January 9, 1890.

Fraternally submitted,

J. L. POWER, Grand Recorder

### GRAND TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

GUS J. BAHIN,

*In Account with the Grand Commandery of Mississippi.*

DR.

1893.

Feb. 9—To balance on hand this date.....\$ 65 66

Feb. 13—To cash of Grand Recorder to date..... 495 10

Total.....\$560 76

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C W. Heitzman, expenses, Mississippi No. 1.....\$ 2 50

John Schlottman, expenses, Magnolia No. 2..... 8 10

Wm. Starling, expenses, Delta No. 16..... 2 50

N. G. Augustus, expenses, Ivanhoe, No. 10..... 18 00

A. B. Weaver, expenses, DeMolay No. 8..... 20 20

E. G. DeLap, Foreign Correspondence..... 50 00

Grand Recorder, salary..... 100 00

Grand Recorder, postage, express and telegrams..... 21 50

Grand Treasurer, salary..... 25 00

Sir E. C. Carroll, repairing banner..... 8 50

Grand Encampment dues, 1893..... 18 00

Proceedings and other printing, 1893..... 180 75

Total.....\$455 00

In treasury this date.....\$105 79

GUS J. BAHIN, Grand Treasurer.

On motion, the reports of the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer were referred to the Finance Committee, which the R. E. Grand Commander appointed as follows: Sirs Wm. Starling, C. F. Merrick and T. B. Franklin.

### ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS.

The Grand Commandery then proceeded to the election of Grand Office s, resulting as follows.

SIR J. C FRENCH.....Natchez .....R. E. Grand Commander.

SIR WM. CROSS.....Greenville.....V. E. Dep. Gr. Commander.

SIR F. P. JINKINS.....Aberdeen.....Grand Generalissimo.

SIR J. M. BUCHANAN.....Meridian.....Grand Captain-General.

REV. SIR T. W. LEWIS.....Booneville.....Grand Prelate.

SIR JAMES T. HARRISON.....Columbus.....Grand Senior Warden.

SIR W. B. WALKER.....Aberdeen.....Grand Junior Warden

SIR G. J. BAHIN.....Natchez .....Grand Treasurer.

SIR J. L. POWER.....Jackson.....Grand Recorder.  
 SIR WM. STARLING.....Greenville .....Grand Standard Bearer.  
 SIR JOHN S. COBB.....Verona.....Grand Sword Bearer.  
 SIR J. W. KEYES.....Tupelo .....Grand Warder.  
 SIR C. C. BUDER.....Columbus .....Grand Captain of the Guard.

#### JURISDICTION WAIVED.

R. E. Sir Frederic Speed, from the Committee on Templar Law, submitted the following report, which was adopted :

*To the R. E. Grand Commandery :*

The Committee on Templar Law, to whom was referred so much of the Right Eminent, the Grand Commander's address as relates to dispensations and jurisdiction, beg leave to report that they recommend that the dispensations be approved.

They recommend that in consideration that there is no Commandery established on the Gulf Coast, nor within more than two hundred miles of the counties lying thereon, that Royal Arch Masons residing in the counties of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson be permitted until the further order of this Grand Commandery, to apply to either of the Commanderies at New Orleans or Mobile for the orders, and to this end recommend the adoption of the following :

*Resolved,* That the jurisdiction over Royal Arch Masons residing in the counties of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson, be and the same is hereby waived in favor of the Commanderies at New Orleans and Mobile, until the further order of this Grand Commandery.

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED,  
 W. G. PAXTON,  
 P. M. SAVERY,  
 Committee.

The Grand Commandery, at 5:25 P. M., adjourned until 7 P. M.

#### DEVOTIONAL SERVICE.

The Commandery met at its Asylum at 7 o'clock P. M., and proceeded to the Methodist church, where the Offices of Devotion were observed in a very impressive manner. A select choir, embracing some of the best talent of Holly Springs, conducted the musical part of the exercises—the Devotional Services being under the general direction of Rev. Sir N. G. Augustus, Grand Prelate.

By special invitation of the R. E. Grand Commander, Rev. Sir Hugh Miller Thompson, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, was present and made an eloquent, forcible and very appropriate address, which was greatly enjoyed by the Sir Knights and the large audience.

Rev. Sir N. G. Augustus also edified his auditors, and added to his own well-earned reputation as a sound thinker and earnest, forcible speaker, by the following—

#### DISCOURSE.

COLLOSSIANS, 1-19—"For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell."

This Order of Templars is a Christian Order. Our vow of knight, with a wealth of beauty almost romantic, binds us with solemn duties to the innocent, the destitute, the helpless. It likewise lays upon the conscience of the true knight that he should see through his life and speech and conduct the truth of God as it came to us in Christ should receive due honor from men.

This is a religious occasion. Therefore our theme is He who is for us as Christians the center of all our own hopes and aspirations. The scripture above shows us our Father's purpose in sending us the Truth as it was incarnate in our blessed Lord. God purposed that in our Lord such fullness of truth and grace and power should dwell, that the Son would be to all men the source from which to supply every need.

Christ says of himself, "And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto myself." Knowledge of Christ must ever increase loyalty and love for Him in men's hearts.

Furthermore, Christ is the answer to human queries, the supply of human needs. In that old, old book of debate upon the great question of God—immortality—forgiveness providence—we find recorded most of those great questions which men must ask as soon as they begin to think—questions of prayer, of God's nature, of justification, of the future of the soul. The providential development of God's truth in the Great Book was not begun to break the word of promise to expectant men.

Let us for a time dwell on some human longings which are answered in Christ, that we may the more fully realize the fullness of truth and light and power which it pleased the Father should dwell in our Lord.

What more natural than the longing for prolonged existence, for a future life? How universal this desire! How prevalent this hope! But to human vision it was a hope only. Plato and Socrates hoped, wished, argued, reasoned. But philosophy could not uphold this hope, for Cæsar, the great intellect of antiquity, in the debate in the Roman Senate on the conspiracy of Cataline, but voiced the despair of his time when he said, "There is neither joy nor sorrow after death."

Men reasoned and hoped. Christ taught with an authority so divine and tremendous that his words have never died away, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live." And not by word only gave he hope to men. Humanity, as it flowed forth into the perfection of the incarnate, was power shown too great and precious to be lost in death. But in the resurrection we have the final and overwhelming assurance that Christ is the Lord of death.

Another great inquiry forces itself upon the conscience of men. "I am wrong with God." "How shall a man be just with God?"

Men everywhere seek rest and peace for conscience. Men everywhere feel guilty before God. Men everywhere feel that all fail; that sin and failure is in every life. Men realize that repentance cannot undo the past; that there is in human power no efficient restitution. Sin once committed is a sin forever; wrong once begun must go on in its influence through eternity; that there is no forgive



ness for wrong in nature. But in the face of conscience Christ answers out of his fullness, the cry of conscience for peace with God.

Again, men would know God. "Canst thou by searching find out God?" Men tried prayers and failed. True, they knew of a great cause by a necessity of mental operation. For there is no atheistic notion. Men knew of the wisdom of this cause in the order and design of nature. Men saw God in nature as power. The storm, the lightning, the ocean's awful compass, moving with resistless force, tell of a great Power behind all. But men stand abashed before the severity and relentlessness of nature. There is no loving forgiveness there. Men saw God as a terrible judge in the condemnation of conscience within and in the judgments on evil without.

Christ reveals to us the forgiving Father. Nature in her visible embodiment of wisdom shows us the mind of God. But Christ is our Father's loving heart. At the very close of our Bible we first see the final statement of God about himself. A long course of instruction must fit men for the truth and Christ must die on the cross before men could begin to see that "God is love."

Some one has said: "This is the mystery of incarnate love which in myriads of instances has proved irresistible. On the one, God in Christ, in Christ in his life, in Christ on the cross is reconciling men to himself and employing his mightiest instrument for recovering, going back, redeeming the world.

On the other hand, Christ—Christ in his life, Christ on the cross—is God so far as human method and medium of impersonalism could reach.

Christ is the nature of God, brought near and unveiled to human eyes. Christ is the heart of God laid open that men might almost hear the beat of its unutterable throbbings, might almost feel the rush of its mighty pulsation. The incarnate in his life and in his death, in his words and in his deeds, in his whole character and spirit, and work on earth, was ever unveiling the Father and making a path for the Father into the human soul. But on the cross Christ presses into the very center of the earth's heart, takes possession of it and there in that center preaches as nowhere else was possible, the gospel of God's love.

If we but faintly realize the greatness of Christ, greatness of mind and heart and purpose and love, our hearts bow before Him in loving obedience, He takes us and makes great in holiness and love. If we but know how great the privilege of His service, how small our achievements for Him.

Knights of Mississippi, let us pray the Father to show us by His spirit the fullness which dwells in His son for us, that by using it we bring all men to the knowledge of his truth.

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The custom of taking up a collection for the Protestant Orphan Asylum at Natchez, was then observed, when the sum of \$31.65 was contributed and handed to the Grand Treasurer, to be forwarded to treasurer of Asylum.

The exercises were closed with music and the Benediction.

## SECOND DAY.

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WEDNESDAY, February 14, 1894.

The Grand Commandery resumed labor at 2:30 P. M.

Rev. Sir N. G. Augustus tendered his resignation as Grand Prelate, which being accepted, he placed in nomination as his successor, Rev. Sir T. W. Lewis, of Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4, who was unanimously elected.

Past Grand Commander P. M. Savery offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Commandery are hereby tendered to Rev. Sir N. G. Augustus, Grand Prelate, for his very acceptable discharge of the duties of Grand Prelate, and especially for the manner in which he conducted the Offices of Devotion last night.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Body are hereby cordially expressed to Rev. Sir Hugh Miller Thompson for his presence and his eloquent and very practical address on the same occasion; and that any expenses he may have incurred by his visit to Holly Springs, in response to the invitation by R. E. Grand Commander, be paid by the Grand Treasurer.

Past Grand Commander Wm. G. Paxton offered the following, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Grand Commandery are specially due and are hereby most sincerely tendered the citizens generally of Holly Springs for their gracious hospitality; also to the Stewards of the Methodist church for the use of their house of worship last night, and to the ladies and gentlemen composing the choir at Offices of Devotion.

Past Grand Commander E. Geo. DeLap offered the following, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Body are in a special manner due R. E. Sir W. S. Ferguson for his very efficient and zealous discharge of duty as Grand Commander, his courteous bearing and impartial rulings as a presiding officer.

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Finance submitted the following report, which was adopted:

*To the Grand Commandery:*

The Committee on Finance beg leave to report that we have examined the reports of the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer, and find the same correct.

We recommend that the compensation of Grand Recorder be one hundred dollars per annum, and Grand Treasurer twenty-five dollars per annum, and that this take effect from 1893, and until otherwise ordered.

Fraternally submitted,

WM. STARLING,  
C. F. MERRICK,  
T. B. FRANKLIN,  
Committee.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPLAR LAW.

R. E. Sir Frederic Speed, for the Committee on Templar Law, submitted the following report, which was adopted:

## TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR :

The Committee on Templar Law beg leave to report that they have maturely considered a question of grave importance, which has arisen since our last Conclave :

QUESTION—Can a member of a Commandery in this jurisdiction, who is a non-affiliated Master Mason, and who does not contribute to the funds of the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides, be permitted to visit and associate with the members of his Commandery ?

ANSWER—The law of the Grand Lodge is that a non-affiliated Master Mason who does not contribute to the funds of the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides, “ is not entitled to, or permitted to receive the rights, benefits and privileges of the Lodge—that is to say : The right to visit and associate with the regular members of the Lodge. \* \* \* The right to move or join in Masonic processions ; the right to Masonic burial. (Section 27 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws.) The law of the Grand Chapter is to the same effect. In the construction of this law the Grand Lodge has gone so far as to hold that a dimitted Mason cannot be admitted into the Lodge to testify at a trial, but must be treated as a profane (Proceedings 1875), and whenever the question has arisen its judgment has uniformly been in support of the doctrine that non-contributing non-affiliates are to be regarded as profanes.

The ruling of the Grand Encampment is diametrically opposed. Grand Master Gobin had the identical question before him on the application of the Eminent Commander of Marysville Commandery, of California, where the Constitution of the Grand Lodge provides that dimitted Masons “ shall be deemed unworthy of Masonic consideration, and shall not be entitled to, nor be the recipient of any of the rights, privileges or charities of the Order.” The Grand Chapter of that State having also a regulation to the same effect. Moreover, the Grand Commandery has a regulation : “ That in order to be in good standing as a Knight Templar, it is necessary to be in in good standing as a Master Mason and as a Royal Arch Mason, as such standing is defined by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of this State.” The precise questions presented were :

1st. Is there a conflict between the law of the Grand Encampment and that of the Grand Commandery of this State as to his duty herein ?

2d. If the answer to the last question is yes, then which law is binding upon him in this matter ?

3d. What, if any, specific action should he take with respect to the said Sir Knights who decline to affiliate with Lodge or Chapter ?

To which the Grand Master replied as follows :

The Code is explicit in deciding that a Templar by merely becoming non-affiliate in Lodge or Chapter, does not lose his standing in the Commandery. Title 41. Each Grand Body must have the exclusive right to determine the qualifications for its own membership. Neither the Grand Lodge nor Grand Chapter can legislate for the Grand Commandery, nor impose any burden upon its membership. Therefore, these bodies cannot, by any enactment, prescribe qualifications for the orders of Knighthood. Upon this point the Grand Encampment has been very explicit, and in different reports has adopted and adhered to the principle enunciated in the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence in 1889, (pages 198 9), as referred to by you. This leaves each Masonic Body inde-

pendent of the others, and unless the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter will compel their members to become Knights Templar, there seems to be no reason why the Grand Encampment or a Grand Commandery should compel its membership to remain affiliated with them. Of course it is desirable they should, and we all expect it to be done, but it is a matter of free will and conscientious duty, not of compulsion. I can see no reason why your Eminent Commander should take any action whatever in the matter. His duty is to his Commandery and the Knights composing it, and I am of the opinion that the Grand Encampment, in determining who shall be Templars, acted within the scope of its duty, and its decision is final. Page 21, Proceedings 1892.

The Jurisprudence Committee in reporting on this decision, say:

"Non affiliation in Lodge or Chapter does not disqualify a Templar from membership in his Commandery."

"The Code is explicit on this subject. Title XLI.

"This doctrine has been adhered to steadfastly by the Grand Encampment, and must be regarded as the well settled rule upon the subject.

"The decision of the Grand Master was correct and should be approved."

Title XLI of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment is as follows:

SECTION 1. Non-affiliation in a Lodge or Chapter does not prevent one otherwise qualified from petitioning for and receiving the orders of Knighthood.

SEC. 2. By merely becoming non-affiliate in Lodge or Chapter, a Templar does not lose his standing in the Commandery.

From a consideration of the foregoing there can be no sort of doubt but that the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Mississippi and the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, have laws which are in opposition to each other and which cannot be reconciled by any known rule of construction.

In the consideration of this question we are confronted with this proposition: Is the law of the Grand Lodge, the greatest of all Masonic tribunals, the fountain of all Masonry, its conservator, the only true and legitimate source of Masonic authority, to be set aside by an order which it permits to exist, whose foundation stone rests upon the Blue Lodge, and can its laws be nullified and set aside by individuals who owe to it permanent allegiance?

We have but one answer to make to such a proposition, which is an emphatic, No. In whatever organization a Master Mason may find himself, his first duty is to the Lodge, and there is no power on earth which can absolve him from his vow of obedience to its laws. Its mandate is supreme and cannot be called into question anywhere, or by any one. And whenever and wherever, any body of Masons or Rite of Masons, sets up its authority against it, it can and ought to, crush it out of existence. If anywhere a Master Mason takes a vow, or obligation, contrary to the supreme allegiance which he owes to the Grand Lodge, it is simply a nullity; something which he must renounce, or suffer the penalty of being deprived of all Masonic associations. We could not sit here for one moment, as Master Masons, if the principle of supreme and undivided allegiance to the Grand Lodge were to be denied by this Grand Commandery or any superior. When the law of the Grand Encampment comes in conflict with that of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, it must yield. This principle of the absolute sovereignty of Grand Lodges is the key-stone which holds the entire Masonic fabric from falling, and it is idle to even talk of there being anything *Masonic* which does not receive the sanction of the Grand Lodge. It may

forbid the use of any portion of its modes of recognition or ritual, in one body which does not assemble under the sanction of its warrant and expel every one of us who has the temerity to violate its edicts, and when it debases the Masonic status of an individual, it is fixed and irrevocable except by its own action. It is entirely competent for the Grand Lodge of the State of New York to wipe out of existence every Chapter, Council, Commandery and Consistory in that State, and no Mason dare to call in question its authority so to do, if in its wisdom it should become necessary or expedient. And when the Grand Lodge of Mississippi fixed the status of non-contributing non-affiliates as that of profanes, no one of us can, for an instant, here in Grand Commandery, or anywhere else, in Chapter, Council or Consistory, hold Masonic intercourse with one of them, without violating the obligation of supreme allegiance which we owe to it.

Every order, decree, edict or resolution of a pseudo Masonic Body, which does not conform to the law of the Grand Lodge is absolutely void, whether it emanates from the Grand Encampment, General Grand Chapter or Supreme Council. We lay these propositions down as self-evident. In the very nature of things the Grand Lodge cannot permit a body to invade its prerogative of making laws for the Masons of its obedience, or to set those laws at naught. To admit this would be to breed anarchy and invite innumerable disorders, even if it did not sound the death knell of the entire Craft. If there are to exist other branches of Masonry, they must continue under the Grand Lodge, and with its express consent. If there is any one who cannot reconcile himself to the most implicit obedience to its mandates, then it is time for him to renounce all Masonry. If the Templar Order, itself, cannot continue in accord with the rules the Grand Lodge enacts, it is time that the Grand Lodge proscribed it, as Grand Lodges have and are continually doing other Masonic excrescences. If it can exist in conformity to the Grand Lodge system, and occupy a legitimate field of action, without assuming to exempt its members from laws to which other Masons yield cheerful obedience, well and good, but if "in determining the qualifications of its own membership" it chooses to admit those whom the Grand Lodge proscribes as unworthy of Masonic association, then it becomes schismatic and is no longer entitled to claim to be a branch of Masonry. The only sufficient reason we have seen assigned for the suppression of the so-called Cerneau bodies, is to be found in the fact that the Grand Lodges willed it. Whether it be true or false that these bodies are schismatic offshoots from another body, which these same Grand Lodges allow to exist, cuts no figure. It was sufficient that the Grand Lodges, in the exercise of their inherent powers, as the conservators of all Masonry, deemed them harmful, and that was enough to justify their suppression. With the naked question as to whether there had been a breach of Masonic faith on the part of these Masonic schismatics, the Grand Lodges did not concern themselves and made no inquiry; they did not assume to punish the individuals composing the proscribed bodies for anything they had done or left undone. It was harmful to have two kinds of Scotch Rite Masons warring with each other. Harmful to what? The Scotch Rite? No!—with that Blue Lodge Masons, as such, have no concern; but harmful to the whole body of the Craft. So far as the Master Masons who voted to condemn the Cerneauts know, the condemned may be entirely in the

right, but the internecine quarrels of these Scotch Rite Masons were a source of injury to all branches of Masonry, apparent even to those who knew nothing of the merits or demerits of either party, viz: the Master Masons who compose the Grand Lodge—and these Master Masons in Grand Lodge put down one party to the strife in the interest of Blue Lodge Masonry. And for the same reason, it being apparent to the Master Masons who compose the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, that the drones who have been driven from our Masonic hive because they would not work, ought not to be allowed to eat, they made a law that no Mason should associate with them or permit them to eat of the Lodge store. This law has no reference to the Chapter or the Commandery, and it does not “prescribe any qualification for admission” therein. These bodies make their own laws, prescribe their own qualifications, one of which is that no one shall be admitted therein who is not a Master Mason in good standing. Why?—because they claim to be Masonic bodies and to practice Masonic rites; being Masonic bodies, they can admit none but those who are Masons according to the standard of the Grand Lodge, whose prerogative it is to determine who are Masons in good standing in that particular jurisdiction.

However, we are confronted with a condition and not a theory. The law of the Grand Lodge is supreme to us as Master Masons and that of the Grand Encampment as Knights Templars. They conflict and are irreconcilable. One or the other must give way. Which shall it be? We cannot sit in the Commandery with this non-contributing non-affiliate, because our Grand Lodge prohibits our having any Masonic intercourse with him. The Grand Encampment declares he has a right to be there, and we cannot turn him out. It is too late to argue whether Section XLI of the Statutes means what is claimed for it, because it has been decided by the highest Templar authority to be “explicit on this subject,” and that, too, in construing laws quite like those of our own Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter. It is a finality so far as the Order of Knights Templar in these United States is concerned.

Now, what is to be done? Serve God and Mammon we cannot. Sit in the Commandery with a profane? That’s an impossibility. Turn the profane out? The Grand Encampment declares he is as good a Knight Templar as the best of us.

In deciding the question as to which law must yield—for it is manifest that both cannot stand—we are happily reminded of the great saving clause in all our Masonic obligations, which requires that nothing be done which subverts the great Masonic scheme; that scheme rests upon the Grand Lodge, and to support its laws is the paramount duty of every Mason. The man who cannot sit with us in the Commandery as a Master Mason in good standing, must leave, or else we who are loyal to our vows, must go and leave him in solitary grandeur, “monarch of all he surveys.” It is absurd that one who by his neglect to do his duty to the Great Commonwealth of Freemasonry, has placed himself in an unfortunate attitude, should be permitted to drive out, by his presence, all the other members of the body. We do not believe that our duty or vows as Templars requires this of us, but if such is the case, there is nothing else left for us but to renounce Templarism, for it is manifest that we cannot sit with one who is suspended or

expelled, and in Mississippi the difference between a suspended or expelled Mason, and a non-contributing non-affiliate, exists only in name and not in degree.

The conclusion of the Committee, therefore is, that the law of the Grand Lodge is supreme, and must be obeyed. The non-contributing non-affiliate cannot sit in a Commandery in Mississippi, notwithstanding the law of the Grand Encampment permits him to do so, because the highest power in Masonry, the Grand Lodge, forbids it.

FREDERIC SPEED,  
W. G. PAXTON,  
P. M. SAVERY,  
Committee.

On motion, it was ordered that the next Grand Conclave shall be held at such place as may be selected by the Grand Lodge.

Sir Wm. G. Paxton offered the following, which was adopted :

The Grand Officers elect were then duly installed; after which, the R. E. Grand Commander announced the following

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

TEMPLAR LAW—Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg; Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Vicksburg; P. M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—E. Geo. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez.

The Grand Commandery then closed its Thirty-Fourth Annual Conclave in Solemn and Knightly Form.



J. C. FRENCH.

GRAND COMMANDER.

ATTEST:

*J. L. Bowen*

GRAND RECORDER.

# RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 27, 1893,

(INCLUDING OFFICERS FOR 1894.)

## MISSISSIPPI COMMANDERY, No. 1—JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1894.

Nolan Stewart.....E. C.	H. M. Taylor.....Treasurer.
A. G. Lewis.....Gen'o.	D. P. Porter, P.E.C.....Recorder.
W. B. Taylor.....C. G.	John McGill.....St. Bearer.
J. L. Power, P.E.C.....Prelate.	Geo. Lemon.....Sw. Bearer.
R. H. Henry.....S. W.	.....Warder.
Jos. W. Power.....J. W.	John M. Cain.....Capt. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—John A. Webb, R. F. McGill, O. Clifton, Wm. J. Brown, Jr.

MEMBERS—Robert Bradley, W. J. Ferguson, Geo. T. Gracey, W. H. Gibbs, B. W. Griffith, J. A. Hoskins, Chas. W. Heitzman, W. C. Harrell, Geo. C. Hoskins, Wirt Johnston, James M. McKee, W. W. Moore, W. S. Pittman, O. B. Quin, W. W. Robertson, J. E. Seavy, W. H. Tegarden—33.

KNIGHTED—Nolan Stewart, W. S. Pittman.

DIED—Matt F. Ash, P.E.C., Nov. 4, 1893,

Dues to Grand Commandery... \$42 00

## MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY, No. 2—VICKSBURG, WARREN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 1st Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1894.

E. C. Carroll.....E. C.	H. W. Bowen.....Treasurer.
J. D. Miles, P.E.C.....Gen'o.	A. M. Paxton.....Recorder.
C. G. Wright.....C. G.	W. G. Kiger.....St. Bearer.
T. G. Birchett, P.E.C.....Prelate.	E. Bonelli.....Sw. Bearer.
W. G. Paxton, P.E.G.C.....S. W.	Albert Arnold.....Warder.
Frederic Speed, P.E.G.C.....J. W.	Jno. Schlottman, P.E.C., Capt. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—John W. Powell, M. Marshall, J. S. Hayes.

MEMBERS—F. M. Andrews, Jos. Biedenharn, W. Chamberlin, W. W. Campbell, S. H. Childress, Wm. Curphey, Z. R. Day, R. L. Dunn, C. C. Flowerce, C. E. Grant, C. W. Gibson, J. M. Gibson, G. L. Gurley, C. E. Gore, W. E. Gill.



more, I. Hardy, J. B. Hamilton, J. W. James, A. L. Jaquith, W. E. Keisker, Jas. H. King, B. T. Lawrence, P. Matherson, W. J. McKee, Jas. K. Moore, Wm. Murray, Chas. Parc, M. R. Payne, J. W. Parkhurst, Chas. Peine, J. C. Pritchett, Lee Richardson, Jr., C. A. Rice, M. F. Smith, W. J. Smith, A. A. Sharpe, P. R. Starr, J. D. Smith, L. J. Thomas, J. B. White, J. C. White, A. L. Williams, S. A. Woolford, M. O. Gorman, W. W. Lord, Wm. Stanton—61.

KNIGHTED—Albert Arnold, A. L. Williams.

REINSTATED—C. A. Rice.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—(in Lodge No. 26)—Geo. W. Bookout, T. D. Godman, Jas. H. Gunning.

Dues to Grand Commandery ..... \$71.00

### HOLLY SPRINGS COMMANDERY, No. 4—HOLLY SPRINGS, MARSHALL COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Monday of each moth.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1894.

G. C. Myers, P.E.C.....	E. C.	B. F. Popham.....	Treasurer.
J. P. Alvis. ....	Gen'o.	L. B. Mosby.....	Recorder.
W. B. Bradberry.....	C. G.	S. D. Hamilton.....	St. Bearer.
S. W. Pryor.....	Prelate.	A. B. McCrosky.....	Sw. Bearer.
J. C. Sheets.....	S. W.	M. H. Leach. . . . .	Warder.
J. R. Horton.....	J. W.	J. W. Stephenson .....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—J. T. Fant.

MEMBERS—J. P. Cherry, B. T. Kimbrough, R. C. Leland, T. W. Lewis, R. McGowan, J. L. Wilson—19.

KNIGHTED—W. B. Bradberry, J. R. Horton, T. W. Lewis, B. F. Popham, J. C. Sheets.

AFFILIATED—R. C. Leland.

DIED—Thos. J. Malone, July 31, 1893.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—J. H. Athey, J. Brooks, T. L. Bennett, A. D. Bailey, W. J. Falkner, F. Ferrell, Thos. Gregg, M. G. Hardin, J. H. Morgan, R. B. Miller, W. H. Newell, R. Roth, H. B. Scruggs, R. S. Sutton, H. B. Whitehead, E. J. Wilkerson, A. Q. Withers.

Dues to Grand Commandery ..... \$44 00

### ROSALIE COMMANDERY, No. 5.—NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Saturday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1894.

Frank S. Shaw, P.E.C.....	E. C.	George W. Koontz.....	Treasurer.
J. Foggo Dixon.....	Gen'o.	Charles F. Merrick .....	Recorder.
W. B. Irvine.....	C. G.	John Conner.....	St. Bearer.
E. G. DeLap, P.G.C.....	Prelate.	Hal. M. Shaw.....	Sw. Bearer.
M. Neihysel.....	S. W.	C. Henry Keim.....	Warder.
Wm. Stitenroth.....	J. W.	Charles M. Sawyer.....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—C. T. Chamberlain, John A. Dicks, J. C. French, G. J. Bahin, W. G. Benbrook, P.G.C.

**MEMBERS**—T. Jeff Adams, W. H. Aikman, G. M. Brown, W. E. Ballard, Samuel D. Baker, J. A. Clinton, L. P. Conner, Jr., R. S. Dixon, Aug. Day, W. L. Davis, A. H. Foster, C. F. Farrar, J. S. Fleming, John A. Guice, E. G. Guice, J. S. Gaynor, T. Grafton, C. H. Gates, Jos. Hahn, W. H. Hendrick, S. P. Hornsby, David King, H. L. Klapp, W. J. Kaiser, R. F. Learned, S. McDowell, O. H. McIlwaine, W. G. McNair, T. Q. Munce, H. C. Norman, R. Lee Parker, Jacob Peebles, Sam Pennywitt, J. J. Proby, Wm. Rutherford, F. L. Rumble, S. C. Sims, Jno. B. Scruggs, B. C. Smitha, M. A. Tyer, E. J. Van Court, B. D. Watkins, W. L. Wells, J. S. York—61.

**KNIGHTED**—Samuel P. Hornsby, Lemuel P. Conner, Jr., Herman L. Klapp, Robert Lee Parker, Hak. M. Shaw.

**AFFILIATED**—Madison A. Tyer.

**REINSTATED**—B. B. Davis.

**DIMITTED**—L. A. Custer, B. B. Davis, J. B. Tennant.

**DIED**—John K. Bledsoe, Recorder, March 7, 1893; Frank K. Winchester, Nov. 1, 1893.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$86 00

### ST. CYR COMMANDERY, No. 6.—WATER VALLEY, YALOBUSHA COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Thursday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1894.

W. H. Price.....	E. C.	Joel Croome, P.E.C.....	Treasurer.
W. H. Biles.....	Gen'o.	J. B. Pate, P.E.C.....	Recorder.
S. B. Brown, P.E.C.....	C. G.	H. A. Gant.....	St. Bearer.
R. H. Ramsey.....	Prelate.	W. A. Hadoway.....	Sw. Bearer.
D. H. Hallowell.....	S. W.	G. D. Brown.....	Warder.
C. E. Romberger.....	J. W.	G. J. Robertson.....	C. of Guard.

**PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS**—J. K. Fulson, P.G.C., M. D. L. Stephens, H. M. Romburger, P.G.C., C. Montgomery, W. C. Shackleford, I. T. Blount.

**MEMBERS**—W. W. Becton, J. V. Blackmur, C. H. Campbell, E. F. Christ, C. R. Cocke, L. W. Deekle, John Flack, J. H. Fulson, H. Gibbons, J. T. Goodwin, Frank L. Hope, Alex Kennedy, J. S. Kettle, John Kirby, James H. Johnson, J. T. Lay, W. E. Moring, R. N. Owens, W. P. Painter, D. C. Powell, J. B. Rogers, R. Spearman, B. R. Scott, T. F. Trainer, T. W. Weatherly, W. C. Winters, John Wright, Edwin Wright, T. H. Walker, W. T. Wynn—48.

**KNIGHTED**—E. E. Christ, Frank L. Hope, James H. Johnson, R. H. Ramsey, B. R. Scott.

**REINSTATED**—W. A. Hadoway.

**DIMITTED**—J. E. Deloach, H. M. Colgan, T. O. Watkins, E. G. Leonard, H. K. Hill.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$78 00

### DEMOLAY COMMANDERY, No. 8—COLUMBUS, LOWNDES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Friday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1894.

C. L. Lincoln, P.E.C.....	E. C.	M. A. Franklin.....	Treasurer.
B. A. Vaughan, P.E.C., P.G.C.....	Gen'o.	C. W. Mills.....	Recorder.
B. A. Weaver.....	C. G.	J. W. Gardner.....	St. Bearer.
G. W. Cox, P.E.C., P.G.C.....	Prelate.	J. H. Stevens.....	Sw. Bearer.
H. M. Waddell.....	S. W.	C. C. Buder.....	Warder.
T. B. Franklin.....	J. W.		

**MEMBERS**—J. S. Billups, Willie Banks, G. Y. Banks, N. L. Davis, J. M. Easton, J. D. Guyton, J. T. Harrison, W. R. Harrington, R. F. Matthews, E. S. Moore, D. S. McClanahan, C. G. McGee, H. Osborne, H. C. Powers, W. D. Prowell, J. P. Stansel, H. M. Teasdale, W. E. Waring, G. B. Wilmot, W. W. Westmoreland—Total 31.

**KNIGHTED**—G. Y. Banks, C. G. McGee.

**DIMITTED**—B. L. Owen, E. T. Sykes.

**DIED**—C. S. Franklin, April 15; J. A. Martin, November 9; E. M. Prowell, July 1.

**SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**—A. H. Barkley, J. H. Field, S. C. Mungler (by reason of suspension by Chapter for n. p. d.), L. M. Tucker.

**Dues to Grand Commandery**..... \$41 00

### CYRENE COMMANDERY, No. 9—MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY,

Regular Conclaves, 2d Thursday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1894.

D. B. Waddell .....	E. C.	W. S. Harris.....	Treasurer.
J. A. Mooser.....	Gen'o.	H. C. Smith.....	Recorder.
A. J. Peck .....	C. G.	C. L. Gaston.....	St. Bearer.
J. H. Wright. ....	Prelate.	W. H. Howard.....	Sw. Bearer.
J. M. Buchanan, P.E.C.....	S. W.	O. A. Harrison.....	Warder.
G. Smallshaf, P.E.C.....	J. W.	C. G. Westbrook.....	C. of Gu'd.

**PAST EMINENT COMMANDER**—J. R. McIntosh.

**MEMBERS**—Joe Alexander, J. C. Andrews, F. W. Bross, W. D. Cameron, J. W. Collins, T. C. Carter, C. C. Coffee, Joseph Eaken, Charles Elmore, R. E. Harris, F. R. Harrison, J. T. Iglehart, John Kamper, T. B. Lamb, Butler Mc. Clanahan, C. C. Miller, Irvin Miller, E. J. Martin, D. A. Ray, J. R. Smith, J. L. Spinks, S. A. Scruggs, M. J. Thompson, H. W. Wilson, W. R. Woods, J. B. Watts—Total 38.

**HONORARY MEMBERS**—W. E. Keller, C. S. Starkweather.

**KNIGHTED**—C. T. Westbrook, C. C. Coffee, J. C. Andrews, T. R. Harrison, Irvin Miller, E. J. Martin.

**AFFILIATED**—Butler McClanahan.

**SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**—C. W. Kelly, J. F. McCormick, Arthur Smith.

**Dues to Grand Commandery**..... \$69 00

### IVANHOE COMMANDERY, No. 10—OKOLONA, CHICKASAW COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Thursday after 2d Tuesday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1894.

N. G. Augustus .....	E. C.	T. W. Williams.....	Treasurer.
J. S. Cobb.....	Gen'o.	J. F. Hodges.....	Recorder.
G. Ligon.....	C. G.	J. M. Dodds.....	St. Bearer.
P. M. Savery, P.G.C.....	Prelate.	W. H. Griffin.....	Sw. Bearer.
J. W. Keyes.....	S. W.	W. I. Harrell.....	Warder.
B. B. Fitzpatrick.....	J. W.	G. W. Anglin.....	C. of Gu'd.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C., E. M. Walker.  
 MEMBERS—W. B. Barker, C. W. Bolton, W. M. Buchanan, W. L. Burnett, N. Cavce, R. H. Collins, W. J. Curtiss, J. M. Davis, Jesse T. Davis, Geo. G. Dillard, D. H. Goff, C. B. Hood, J. T. Harris, W. C. Harris, A. G. Harkreader, Z. T. Harper, B. McCullar, L. B. McCullar, J. Q. Robbins, Jerre Seale, B. A. P. Selman, R. M. Sadler, J. M. Trice, W. X. Wilson, Thos. H. Williams, E. C. Bolton,<sup>o</sup> '1. E. Cannon,<sup>o</sup> H. W. Hunter,<sup>o</sup> J. L. Finley—Total 43.  
 KNIGHTED—G. Ligon, B. B. Fitzpatrick, W. J. Curtis, Z. T. Harper, J. M. Dodds, G. G. Dillard, R. M. Sadler, J. W. Keyes, W. C. Harris.  
 REINSTATED—J. L. Finley.  
 SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—Frank Burkitt (by Chapter), W. H. D. Crawford (by Lodge).  
 Dues to Grand Commandery ..... \$84.00

COEUR D'ELION COMMANDERY, No. 13—PORT GIBSON, CLAIBORNE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 1st Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1894.

F. H. Foote.....	E. C.	N. S. Walker.....	Treasurer.
S. M. Briscoe.....	Gen'o.	W. B. Fulkerson.....	Recorder.
Stephen Thrasher.....	C. G.	John W. Andrews.....	St. Bearer.
J. A. B. Jones.....	Prelate.	J. H. Gordon.....	Sw. Bearer.
A. K. Burnet.....	S. W.	A. Sager.....	Warder.
R. A. Owen.....	J. W.	W. B. Lewis.....	C. of Gu'd.

Dues to Grand Commandery ..... \$12 00

DELTA COMMANDERY, No. 16—GRENVILLE, WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 3d Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1894.

Wm. Starling.....	E. C.	John P. Finlay.....	Treasurer.
King Dowart.....	Gen'o.	D. B. Head.....	Recorder.
S. W. Ferguson, G.C.....	C. G.	R. L. Clack.....	Standard Bearer.
E. N. Thomas.....	S. W.	W. P. McBath.....	Warder.
W. R. Trigg.....	J. W.	R. M. Standifer.....	Sword Bearer.
Wm. Cross.....	Prelate.	Stevenson Archer.....	Capt of Guard.

MEMBERS—Geo. E. Billingsley, L. Bratson, W. L. Clack, C. H. Smith, C. W. Dudley, W. G. Jaquess—Total 18.

Dues to Grand Commandery ..... \$18 00

ABERDEEN COMMANDERY, No. 17—ABERDEEN, MONROE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Thursdays of each month.

W. B. Walker.....	E. C.	F. P. Jenkins, P.E.C.....	Treasurer.
A. A. Posey.....	Gen'o.	Hugh Campbell.....	Recorder.
G. S. Clopton.....	C. G.	J. C. Gathings.....	St. Bearer.
O. L. McKay.....	Prelate.	J. A. Mayfield.....	Sw Bearer.
W. A. Charing.....	S. W.	T. B. Holmes.....	Warder.
L. G. Nisbit.....	J. W.	E. W. Holmes.....	Capt. of Guard.

MEMBERS—A. T. Akin, S. H. Berg, R. B. Brannin, J. A. Bowen, J. C. Brown, J. J. Ellis, J. W. Eckford, C. W. Gibson, R. A. Honea, W. S. Lindamood, B. M. Moore, S. Turner Sykes, E. L. Sykes, W. G. Sykes, P.E.C., E. G. Smith, A. J. Smith, W. F. Thomas, Edgar Wilson.

KNIGHTED—A. T. Akin, G. L. Clopton, W. S. Lindamood, W. A. Charping, B. M. Moore, E. G. Smith, J. A. Mayfield, T. B. Holmes, E. W. Holmes, J. C. Brown, Edgar Wilson, A. J. Smith.

DIED—C. F. Lundin, March 25, 1893; C. N. Simpson, September 3, 1893.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—W. E. Howard, D. P. Barker, (in Chapter).

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$90 00

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1893,

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Commanderies making reports for 1893 (total in Jurisdiction).....	11
Knighted during year .....	48
Affiliated.....	2
Reinstated .....	3
Died .....	9
Total membership in Jurisdiction.....	387
Dues of Commanderies.....	\$629 00

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Receipts for 1893.....	\$495 10
Disbursements for 1893 .....	455 06

# REPORT ON FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE.

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*To the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Mississippi :*

In presenting this, my Fifteenth Annual Report on Correspondence, I crave your usual indulgence for any and all imperfections, idiosyncracies, hypercriticisms or crankiness that may appear therein.

The truth is, the position of Reporter is losing its gist and enjoyment, owing to the dearth of exciting topics upon which a difference of opinion is possible, thereby reducing the chances of a scrimmage to the minimum.

A service as long and as nearly uninterrupted as ours has been, has the effect to cause us to sort 'o run in a groove, with the result of a sameness that detracts, not a little, from the pleasure of the work. Had we greater talent, a better education and a brighter mind, it would be easier to vary the monotony and enhance the interest of our reports.

But as the sun of our earthly pilgrimage approaches nearer and nearer to its setting in the horizon of the grave, we find it harder to deviate from the forms and style made venerable by age and long use, hence we will ask our readers, if we have any, to be as well satisfied with what we give them, as they can.

We write this on December 30, and up to this hour there are quite a number of pamphlets still absent, notably, Ohio and our good friend Enoch. Should they reach us in time, they will receive the attention they deserve and that we are able to give them.

Death has been busy and has made fearful havoc in the ranks of the brightest and best of the host. The decease of our beloved friend and brother, Innes, of Michigan, is a personal bereavement for us, although we never saw his face. With us, the Order at large, and especially the Craft in his own State, are equally bereft. To his loved ones, left behind, we beg to tender our sincere and profound sympathy and condolence.

We hope some day to meet our brother, and others who have preceded us to to the "land of shadows," on the beautiful banks of the "River of the Water of Life," and enjoy with them and Him who redeemed us by the shedding of His own precious blood, an eternity of blessedness at God's right hand. God grant that in this there may be no disappointment.

With the above "few remarks" we move at once on the works of—

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ARKANSAS—1893.

The Twenty-first Annual was held in the city of Little Rock, April 18th.

Sir C. E. Rosenbaum, Grand Commander; Sir James A. Henry, Grand Recorder.

Ten Subordinate Commanderies were represented. The address is quite lengthy, but is devoted to matters of local interest. Much space and considerable enthusiasm is devoted to the "Triennial" trip.

A banner made of Templar badges picked up at Denver, was presented to the Grand Body by a lady who was of the party. No doubt it is very pretty, but rather variegated after the manner of Joseph's coat. Appropriate mention is made of the Knightly dead and just tribute accorded their memories and merits.

Our old friend and Rev. Bro. Adams, having unexpectedly removed from the State, he was called upon to name a successor, which he did in the person of Bro. Reckon, Grand J. W.

We find nothing in the proceedings of general interest. The Order is in fairly good shape.

The Correspondence report is the maiden effort of Bro. Reckon, as intimated above, and we reckon it will do first-rate for a raw hand. He uses scissors and paste unsparingly, occasionally injecting a little original matter in the shape of a kick, which is all correct. Under Colorado he fails to see how Washington's natal day could be considered a Masonic occasion. We beg to suggest that if our Commanders can strut at the funerals of our distinguished, though profane, dead, it is certainly no impropriety for them to honor the memory of the Father of his Country, who was a Mason, by parading on his birthday.

We fail to find Mississippi in this report and presume the pamphlet failed to reach him. We are sorry on his account.

R. E. Sir Sam'l W. Williams is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporter continued.

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#### CALIFORNIA—1893.

The Thirty-fifth Annual was held in the city of San Francisco, April 20th. Sir Jake H. Neff, Grand Commander; Sir Thos. H. Caswell, Grand Recorder.

Thirty-one Subordinate Commanderies were represented. The address is comparatively short, but we presume contains all the R. E. had to say. We clip the following as being sensible and reasonable:

"We cannot be too often or too forcibly reminded of our solemn duties in the important matter of admitting new members into this noble Order. The qualifications of a candidate for the honors of Knighthood should be of a positive nature; it is insufficient that nothing of a vicious character is known respecting an applicant. The question should be: 'Is he truly a virtuous man, one who fears God and works righteousness?' An individual whose moral character is defective, should never be admitted under the hope that he may thereby be made better. If it is our earnest wish and desire that our Order should endure and be able to bear the buffetings and storms of prejudice and the criticisms of our enemies, we must take heed that the material which is to compose it be sound to the core. If the honors of Knighthood are conferred only on those who are thus carefully selected, our noble Order will endure as everlasting as the universe.

Only remarking that if the Order was purged of all but moral, *Christian* gen-

tle men, the purgation would play greater havoc with the roll of membership than did the "Russian Campaign" with the "Grand Army" of Napoleon.

So far as we are concerned, we prefer an outspoken wicked man to a cantering hypocrite, and our churches are full of that sort and they are, generally, the biggest toads in the mill pond.

Proper tribute is paid to the virtues and memory of the Knightly dead, both of his own and other jurisdictions.

His decisions strike us as being a little "shaky," some of them. Among others that the reception and adoption of an unfavorable report on a petition is the same as rejection and the E. C. should declare the candidate rejected. We have always been taught that where a report is unfavorable a *ballot* must be spread and that you can neither elect or reject a candidate in any other way than by ballot.

Another one was that a Commandery could not entertain the petition of an affiliated Royal Arch Mason until he had applied for membership in some Blue Lodge, although he had regularly paid Lodge dues all the time! This may be good law in California, but it aint good sense.

We find, right in the bowels of the minutes, the second report of Bro. Lippett on Correspondence, which covers seventy-seven pages, and notes the doings of thirty-six Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1892 among the number. Under Minnesota, after copying Bro. Montgomery's response to our blast at the G. A. R. and Confederate Veterans' Associations, he says:

Sir DeLap may have been a little too sharp. But it is well to observe that the nation was saved at a fearful sacrifice for the whole people of the nation, and not alone for those whose valor and sacrifice saved it.

Who of us can ever forget, who had the pleasure of hearing that grand and eloquent Sir Knight, Connor, of Tennessee, at the great banquet given to the Grand Encampment at Denver, when, incidentally speaking of his love for this country of his adoption, said: "During the late war I did what I could in aid of the South, in the belief that we were in the right, and to disserve the union of the States." And we all know what a force he is where his heart is enlisted, but drawing himself up to his superb height and his right arm extended toward heaven, his eyes suffused with tears and his voice tremulous with emotion, he exclaimed: "Thank God, I failed!" The grand universal applause of that grand body of Templars from every State in the Union proclaimed the unity of the nation, glorious, indestructible, while the genius of American Liberty, like the beloved disciple St. John, seemed to whisper the benediction: "Little children, love one another."

Yes, "Little children love one another," but don't forget that "Its a dreadful thing to be disloyal to one's government." Sir DeLap has not been a little too sharp. He has simply talked patriotic sense, pure and simple. All this howl about the "blood and treasure" it cost to prosecute a family fight thirty years ago makes us tired, and no man that really loves his country ever refers to the matter when it can be avoided. Give us a rest in this "gush" business! The war is over, and the country would be, not only a union of States, but also of hearts and interests, if the politicians were dead and the devil had his own.

Bro. Lippett's notice of our pamphlet is pleasant. He has some kind words for this Committee, but does not concur in our views in reference to attending church in uniform. Well, well, we are not disposed to quarrel with anybody on these mat-



ters. God will not hold us responsible for other people's sins, nor them for ours. *We* think it more in consonance with the gospel of Christ to leave swords and plumes in the Asylum; others, that it is proper and right to take them to church. Then let it rest until the "Last Great Day" shall demonstrate who is right and who wrong.

Sir Wm. Vanderhurst is Grand Commander. Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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### COLORADO—1893.

The Eighteenth Annual was held in the city of Denver, June 6th. Present, Sir, A. A. Burnard, R. E. G. C., Sir Ed. C. Parmelee, Grand Recorder, and Representatives of nineteen chartered Commanderies.

The address is short but well written and interesting. We excerpt the opening:

By the grace of the Supreme Grand Commander of the Universe, we are once more permitted to assemble in Annual Conclave, to review the past, and to legislate for the future, and to this, our Eighteenth Annual Conclave, I bid you all a most hearty welcome.

I am sure that you all join me in the hope that the past year has been rich and productive, not only in the numerical strength of our beloved Order, but more especially in the good deeds we have accomplished in the character of Knights Templar. If to the destitute widow and the helpless orphan we silently appeared in their most trying hour, helping to soothe and comfort them in their affliction, and sheltered them from the tempest that surrounds them in this cold world the moment the father and protector has been taken from them; if, when we met a man bending under the cross of adversity, we did not pass on the other side, but nobly came to his rescue, and assisted him with our counsel, our guidance and our purse; if, in our vocation as Knights Templar, we managed to accomplish one-quarter of the obligations our noble Order enjoins upon us as our duty, and which we vowed to perform to the best of our ability, then indeed, Sir Knights, are we true Soldiers of the Cross, and as such should we rejoice in the happy reflection of the good we have accomplished, and take pleasure in meeting in Annual Conclave to discuss the best plans for the future good of the Order.

His dispensations were all for legitimate purposes. No decisions were called for. He reports a quite general observance of Templar Holy Days, Easter and Ascension Days. The Triennial Committee were presented with testimonials for the faithful and eminently satisfactory performance of their onerous duties, which was all right.

The Grand Treasurer's account shows a balance of \$7,398.78, which is big, if you remember the enormous expense incident to the entertainment of the Grand Encampment.

Eight Past Grand Commanders were presented with appropriate jewels. The Order is in excellent trim.

Bro. Orahood presented a short report on Correspondence, reviewing or clipping from the minutes of thirty-nine Templar Grand Bodies, in forty pages, Mississippi for 1892 among them. There is so little original matter in the report that we can't find anything to clip, and in this we think Bro. O. is wrong. We thank him for his prescription to cure our dislike to the G. E., but fear it won't work.

Sir A. B. McGaffey is Grand Commander. Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued

### CONNECTICUT—1893.

The Sixty-sixth Annual was held in the city of Norwalk, March 21, R. E. Sir Christian Swartz, Grand Commander, presiding; R. E. Sir Joseph K. Wheeler, Grand Recorder. There were fifteen P. G. Commanders present, together with a long list of Past Commanders, Grand Representatives and delegates from eleven subordinate Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is a good one. Much space is devoted to the memory and worth of the magnanimous dead of his own and other jurisdictions. His dispensations are sound, as the world goes, quite a number of them being for devotional services. He reports the number Knighted during the year at 144; loss of members from all causes, forty-eight; net gains, 96, and total membership 2,030. His visitations were quite general, were pleasant, and doubtless, profitable. The proceedings were entirely local and very brief.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Our old and valued friend, Sir Jos. K. Wheeler, is again the author of this report, which, like its predecessors from the same source, is perfect in all its parts, and complete as a whole.

Under Alabama, he is grateful to Bro. Moore for squelching brother Connor in the matter of his "Greek Emanuel," holding that Bro. Wheeler's "Immanual" is correct. As this is all Greek to us, we pass. No doubt, however, our good Brother Connor will bob up serenely somewhere along the line.

Under Canada the following:

Talk about titles and fuss and feathers! The United States, with all its triennial show, is "not in it." It almost took our breath away as we wrote down the ponderous titles, and made us feel like one suddenly rising into an atmosphere so rare that he feels a sense of fainting come over him, sort of dizzy, dazzled condition that comes with the inbreathing of nitrous oxide gas, and makes a fellow feel as if he was half drunk and floating upon the silver edge of a cloud into ethereal space. Oh! oh!! oh!!! we wonder if we shall ever get back and snuff one good solid breath of fresh air again?

His review of Mississippi for 1892 is nice and fraternal. He knocks the spot out of some of Bro. Bodenhamers's "English" in this pleasant way: "He decides first, that an honorary member of a Commandery, *unless an active member thereof*, is ineligible to vote or hold office, which is correct, but how can one be both an active and honorary member of the same Commandery? We think the words in italic superfluous." No doubt they are, and no doubt Bro. Bodenhamer knows it, but these things will occur and must be taken as though not having been writ.

He quotes our Fred's justly celebrated response to the Dead Beat who proposed to cut loose from the Lodge and Chapter and devote his valuable talents

to the Commandery alone, saying that "it is too good, not to be passed around."

We clip the following anent our report for your information :

"Our jurisdiction is included in Sir Knight DeLap's review, and speaking of dispensations issued to confer the order of the Temple upon more than one candidate, he says : "We confess our ignorance of just *how* this could be done," and asks us to explain. Dear frater, it is just as easy as taking a 'mint julip' when the thermometer is ninety-six in the shade. Instead of one, we take two it may be, and pass them through the ceremony together, except the chamber of reflection, and the fifth libation, where they must each one be left by himself."

Bro. Wheeler's reports are always good, and this one reviews every Grand Jurisdiction in the country, a thing that very rarely occurs.

R.: E.: Sir James B. Wildman is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### CANADA — 1893.

The Tenth Annual Assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, of Rhodes and Malta, was held in the city of Ottawa, July 18. M.: E.: Sir Knight Elias Talbot Malone, Supreme Grand Master, on the throne. R.: E.: Sir Knight Daniel Spy, Grand Chancellor. Twenty-eight Subordinates were represented.

The Grand Master's address is an able paper. It is devoted almost entirely to the consideration of the present condition of the Order in his Jurisdiction, coupled with many timely and wise suggestions for its advancement and more rapid growth. We clip the following, as part of it applies to Grand Bodies, particularly, everywhere :

#### MEETING PLACE OF GREAT PRIORY.

I approach this subject with considerable trepidation, as I know that I am opposed by my dearest and best friends. I have, however, discussed the subject in every Preceptory visited by me, and the universal demand, as witnessed by various resolutions passed by these Preceptories and forwarded to me, is in favor of meeting at a different time and place than the Craft Grand Lodge of Canada. The cry for this change comes not only from the Province of Ontario, wherein the Templar Order is the strongest, but from the Provinces bordering on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. I have heard their complaint and I see force in it. I will be met with the argument that in the year 1889 Great Priory met in Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, with the result of a small attendance and little interest taken in affairs. I claim that that is no argument against my proposition, as the fault is in our defective system, which I will endeavor to point out, and on account of which some of our best workers and most ardent Templars do not attend Great Priory. I refer to our manner of electing officers. You will agree with me that to create an interest in any organization the rewards should go to the workers. Look at the list of the officers and members of the Grand Council of Great Priory and answer me. Have we rewarded the men who have toiled for their respective Preceptories in particular, and for the Order of the Templar in general? If you are honest you must answer in the negative. I know for a fact that there are men in high offices to-day who have not darkened the doors of their Preceptories since the last meeting of Great Priory. I know there are men fill-

ing our chief seats who were never capable of opening and closing the Preceptory, let alone exemplifying the degrees. I claim that the lethargy from which I and my good friends of the year have awakened the Order is due to the easy-going individuals I have mentioned, whose sole ambition was to wear the title that a great Priory office would confer. Active men, and men who work to promote Templar interests, must be recognized. They care not to attend our annual assembly as they know full well that the room will be filled with the Templars who are attending the annual communication of Grand Lodge, and whose votes can control the offices. You can never prosper under such circumstances. Let us strike out for ourselves. We are old enough to walk alone without the support of Grand Lodge or any other Grand Body. Our first meeting may not be largely attended, but I claim that each succeeding meeting will increase in numbers that you will bless the day you had courage to conduct your affairs without assistance from outside sources.

With a population of five millions, he says: "Our Templar membership will only amount to 1100." Out of a total roll of 101,370 Templars in the world, the United States is credited with 95,487, and he pertinently asks. "What cause can you assign for our backward state, as compared with that of our neighbors? Have they a greater love for the Order than we? Surely we can copy from them to our advantage." Doubtless. They are also luxuriating in a revised ritual.

His decisions are local but sound. He declined a re-election in the interest of rotation, holding that the interests of the Order will be subserved thereby. We concur.

The District Officers and Dep. G. M., made reports, all of which are confined to local matters.

We cull the following from the report of the Grand Council on the address of the Grand Master:

We are in thorough sympathy with the strong appeal made by Supreme Grand Master in favor of awarding the offices to those who work, and not to those who simply put in an appearance at our annual meeting of Great Priory. We are equally in sympathy with him in his advocacy of a complete emancipation of the Sovereign Great Priory from Grand Lodge influences. We must remember that the one with which we have coupled our itineracy is not the only Grand Lodge in Canada, and that our too close connection with it necessarily excites jealousy and suspicion. It is to be hoped that this Sovereign Grand Body will decide to forever put an end to the partnership which is so displeasing outside of Ontario. With equal force comes the advice that the offices of Great Priory be not too tenaciously held by those whose proximity and convenience enable them to control the votes. If delegates from the Maritime and Western Provinces would only favor us with the light of their countenance and the wisdom which they could add to our councils, we feel sure that Great Priory would be glad to assist them to influential positions.

That the question of ritual and uniform is shown to be virtually settled, impresses us with the view that two great stumbling-blocks have been removed. Only those who have been visiting the Preceptories can understand the absolute impossibility of making progress while in the formative condition. Frates will not bend their energies to the memorizing of a ritual which is likely to be changed at the next meeting of the Sovereign Great Priory, nor are they willing to buy uniforms which may at the next meeting be condemned by those in authority.

That the Scottish Knights, who are at present largely dominating New Brunswick, and for whom we have the highest respect, have not united under our banner, is a disappointment. The failure is one that cannot be laid at the door

of the Supreme Grand Master, for by correspondence and by personal knowledge we know him to have been assiduous in his efforts to have them unite with us in making Great Priory the only ruling Templar order in the jurisdiction. We are glad to know that even if we have no definite success to comment upon in this regard, the future is bright with hope for complete unity in the ambitions and efforts of Knight Templarism in Canada. With regard to Grand Representatives, Provincial Priors, decisions and dispensations, we can only report ourselves in complete accord with the Supreme Grand Master, though with him we must express regret that it is not in harmony with the decision of this body to insist upon Knights Templar remaining in affiliation and good standing in the Royal Arch and the Blue.

We coincide in the wisdom of urging the necessity of a triennial conclave in Canada, to be held a year in advance of the one which attracts so much attention in the United States.

Bro. Henry Robertson is the author of an admirable report on Correspondence, in which the doings of the entire family are courteously and pleasantly considered. He opens with some additional information regarding the later history of the Knights of St. John, which we copy :

We have recently procured some additional information regarding the later history of the Knights of St. John. This will be interesting to those Fraters who have heretofore followed with delighted admiration the record of the marvelous achievements of that valiant body of Christian soldiers to the time when, in Malta, in 1565, the Grand Master, LaValette, with his 474 knights and 9000 men-at-arms, for over three months successfully resisted the siege by the Turks under Mustapha Pasha, with 40,000 men.

The sovereignty of the island of Malta belonged to the Knights of St. John for over 250 years. At the end of that time, however, a change had taken place throughout Europe. The leading Continental powers had assumed control of political matters, the strength of the Moslems had been destroyed, and the occupation of the Knights as a military body was gone. Hence, when Malta became a part of the French Republic in 1798, the Knights of St. John lost their status as an independent body. They left the island of Malta and became scattered throughout Europe. For a long time after that it appears that the title of Grand Master remained in abeyance and the Knights were governed by a Lieutenant appointed by the Pope, the Knighthood being almost nominal.

One of the most noted branches of the Order is the German or Branderburg. It is one of the original branches or *langues* of the Order, which were seven in number while the Knights were yet in Jerusalem. The Branderburg branch of the Order of Knights of St. John, which first was organized in 1160, claims to have preserved a continuous succession since that time. There was a period of inactivity after the troublous times of the Reformation, when the Knighthood was kept in old families, members of the German nobility, and descended as an hereditary right. A re-constitution took place in 1853, when Frederic William, King of Prussia, nominated as Grand Master his brother, Prince Charles, and duly sent word of his election to the Lieutenant of the Order at Rome. The official statistics for 1889 show that 1280 ordinary Knights and 3248 honorary Knights have been elected since then. The present Grand Master is Prince Albrecht, who is a nephew of the late Emperor William. The Order is still confined to the old aristocracy, inasmuch as all candidates must be of noble family and be able to trace their nobility for sixteen generations. Every second year a conclave is held in their own palace in Sonnenburg, Prussia, at which ordinary Knights are admitted by the Grand Master.

The ceremony is the ancient one of laying the sword on the shoulder, and the presentation of a decoration in the form of a Maltese Cross. The badge of Knighthood is, for the Grand Master a long robe of black velvet, and for the Knights a robe of silk, both having a white cross on the left shoulder.

The annual subscription for each knight is about \$225, and this money is applied to the maintenance of hospitals for the sick, and homes for the old and infirm. Thus the Order is enabled, from its general funds, to maintain forty hospitals in Germany, accomodating 1787 helpless or suffering persons; in Beyrout, Syria, a hospital with sixty-three beds, founded in 1860, after the massacre of the Christians at Damascus and Lebanon; in Jerusalem, a hospice, where the needy may be kept for a fortnight without charge, and the traveling public are accomonated at moderate rates. Seven hundred years ago, when the Knights Hospitalers first went to Jerusalem they were engaged in the same work of relief in which their descendants are employed now.

His review of Mississippi for 1892 and 1893 is fraternal. For his kind sympathy for us in our afflictions we are obliged.

M. E. Sir Kt. E. E. Sheppard is Sovereign Grand Master. Grand Chancellor and Correspondent continued.

### GEORGIA—1893.

The Thirty-second Annual was held in the city of Augusta, May 10. Sir Geo. W. McElhaney, Grand Commander; Sir Samuel P. Hamilton, Grand Reporter. Eight Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is short but well written. His dispensations were few and for proper purposes. One new Commandery was started in Atlanta. The Order is fairly prosperous. Total membership 597, a gain of 37. The proceedings are devoid of general interest.

Bro. Roland B. Hall presented his fifth report on Correspondence, in which he digests the transactions of thirty-nine Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1892 getting four pages. He quotes largely from the address of Bro. Bodenhamer, and incorporates the "Law Report" in full; has some pleasant words for this committee, which are appreciated, and gets up an excellent report. A little more "Hall" in it would be an improvement, we think. We clip his closing, which shows his calibre—to inch and rifled:

### CONCLUSION.

We have reached another milestone in life's journey. Another year is added to the past. A year with its sorrows and its joys, its births and its deaths, its successes and its failures, and it is time to write *finis* to this report.

We regret it is not more worthy. We have done our best. Angels could do no more. We desire to thank our brethren of the quill for their expressions of approval of our last effort. And for their words of sympathy in the great pall of sorrow which hung over our household when it was written, we are profoundly grateful. With sincere thanks to the Giver of all Good, we are pleased to announce the complete recovery of the sick one.

From the proceedings reviewed by us we are happy to report the Order throughout in a harmonious and flourishing condition. Every one seems delighted with the final settlement of the question of Ritual. Now let the matter of drill and uniform be likewise settled and made uniform, and there can arise naught in the way of a continuous harmony in the future.

We close this report with the kindest feelings for our confreres. Wishing much happiness and prosperity to each and all of them who labor in the field of

Correspondence, and hoping that we may all meet at the coming harvest, we subscribe ourselves,  
 Courteously,

ROLAND B. HALL, Chairman.

Sir Washington P. Baldwin is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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I O W A—1893.

The Thirtieth Annual was held at Templar Park, Spirit Lake, July 12, R. E. Sir E. Olin Soule, Grand Commander, presiding; E. Sir Alf. Wingate, Grand Recorder; 34 out of 56 Subordinate Commanderies represented.

The Grand Commander's address is a business paper, containing a resume of his administration. His decisions are sound. His dispensations all right, including one "to appear in uniform at a charity ball under the supervision of the Commandery," the entire proceeds to be devoted exclusively to charitable purposes.

He also allowed one of them to make a "Pilgrimage" to the home of their Excellent *Prelate* for the purpose of presenting him with a testimonial, and adds: "This dispensation was cheerfully given." No doubt. But where was the need of a dispensation for such a purpose, and why call it a "pilgrimage?" unless their Prelate resided a long way off, which is not likely.

We have always felt a lively interest in the success of their "Templar Park" enterprise, and hoped to see the largest measure of success crown their efforts, and are glad to note that all is as it should be in this direction, as the following remarks of the R. E. shows:

TEMPLAR PARK.

From the time of the appointment of a committee, in 1883, to consider the advisability of purchasing a permanent "camping ground" for the Templars of Iowa, to the present conclave, more or less time has been occupied annually in considering this question and of the improvements to be made. In very many of our sister Grand Jurisdictions the enterprise has been closely watched, criticised and commented upon. From the pen of that very eminent frater and versatile writer, Right Eminent Sir John Corson Smith, Committee on Correspondence of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, I make this quotation from his review of Iowa for 1892:

"Much has been said and written about Templar Park, and we once doubted the success of the enterprise. We do so no longer, and gladly note the enterprise and determination of our fraters over the river to make the Park a place of pleasure and recreation to the Sir Knight of Iowa, and a permanent home for their Grand Commandery."

For the successful carrying out of our plans, and the very judicious manner in which the funds appropriated for the enterprise have been expended, much credit is due to the very efficient Board of Trustees. For the success of this undertaking there is no longer room for doubt. The result of their endeavors is before you, and, although it has entailed a great deal of time, trouble and personal expense, yet through their efforts every Iowa Templar can to-day point with pride to a home located upon one of the most beautiful spots in Iowa, dedicated to the Masonic fraternity, their families and friends.

The action of Iowa in this case is an excellent example for such of the Grand Bodies as are financially able, to follow. This is peculiarly true as applied to the Grand Encampment, and we would be glad to see it adopted by that body in the interest of morality and wise legislation.

In this connection we clip his General Order, No. 4, which explains itself :

GENERAL ORDER NO. 4.

*To the Eminent Commanders and Sir Knights of the Subordinate Commanderies of Iowa :*

"The following arrangements for the accommodation of the Sir Knights, their families and friends, at Templar Park during 'Festal Week,' have been perfected :

"Sir Knight P. E. Narey will have full charge of the commissary department, and will serve meals in the dining hall as follows: By the week at the rate of seven dollars. Less than one week at one dollar and twenty-five cents per day. Single meals, fifty cents.

"The sleeping-rooms in the apartment house will be furnished with woven wire spring cots and two chairs, at a rental of twenty five cents per day for each cot used. Blankets, wash-bowls, soap, towels, and like conveniences must be provided by parties using them.

"Eminent Sir Thomas B. Lacey, Grand Captain-General, will have charge of the grounds, and all applications for accommodations for festal week should be made direct to him, at Council Bluffs, prior to July 6th. After this date, direct communications to him addressed Minnie P. O., Dickinson county, Iowa.

"All baggage or camp supplies should be checked or sent to Spirit Lake Station. Arrangements have been made with Sir Knight Narey, who will be responsible and look after the transportation of all baggage and supplies from the depot to Park intrusted to his care, at a charge not to exceed twenty-five cents for each trunk, and baggage, etc., by the load at proportionate rates.

"I would earnestly request that the Eminent Commanders of all Subordinate Commanderies, upon receipt of this order, make a full canvass of their several commands and forward to me at Iowa Falls, at the earliest date possible, the approximate number who will attend this session of the Grand Commandery; also the probable number who will desire accommodations before or after the regular session of the Grand Commandery. It is the desire of your Grand Officers to make full and complete arrangements for the accommodation of all at Templar Park for any desired length of time from June 25th to August 15th, inclusive, between which dates Sir Knight Narey will be prepared to accommodate all who come, and in order to perfect our arrangements this information is important.

"Further details regarding railroad rates, programme, etc., will be given you as soon as arrangements, now under way, can be completed."

E. OLIN SOULE, Grand Commander.

Attest:

ALF. WINGATE, Grand Recorder.

We find the following characteristic letter of regrets from the irrepressible Connor :

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., June 28th, 1893.

*Sir E. Olin Soule, Grand Commander, Iowa Falls, Iowa :*

"MY DEAR FRATER—I do thank you most heartily for the pleasant words you sent me in your most cheery letter of the 23d, and if you could know how deeply I regret my inability to accept your courteous invitation to be the guest of Iowa at Spirit Lake, you would sympathize with me. But fate turns me aside, and business demands that I remain at home to battle in the courts, and win for my city the rights of which the railroads have deprived her during many years.



"As we say down here in Tennessee, 'I wish you well.' God knows how well I wish you, and the prosperity I desire you to enjoy. Yours is a great State, full of great men, and inspired by aspirations as vast as your prairies. I would like to roll in among you, and inhale the inspiration of your civilization. I would like to meet all the men who knowing the right, in the past, dared to maintain it; aye, maintain it as true knights and loyal Templars. Many condemned you, some, perhaps many, conscientiously; I was not among the condemning number. When the cloud rolled by you still stood by the standard, with knightly courtesy for all, with bitterness for none. I need not tell you how proud I was to be commissioned your Grand Representative in Tennessee during those days of trial and sorrow. I am proud of the honor now, and I pray you allow me to wear it till the Master bids me come up higher.

"May the conclave at Spirit Lake realize all your desires, and be a blessing to the Order and a pleasure to your visitors. 'All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy.' Apply this old saw to your annual meetings. We older fellows are losing memory of the impulses of our youth, and are croaking against certain pleasures as offensive to God, because not inspiring to us as they used to be. Let no dog in the manger detract from the pleasures of next month.

"Tell all who know me, 'howdy.' Tell them that though my body is absent my spirit is with them. Kiss Wingate, Babb, Cleveland, Clements, Winslow, McGrew, and as many girls as will allow you, for me. Kiss that smiling youth Parvin twice, and then he may transfer the sweetness to dear Mrs. Parvin. My! how can I stay away; but I must."

Sincerely thy friend,

G. C. CONNOR.

We presume the hoary headed old rascal refers to us as the "dog in the manger," which is utterly and entirely unjust. This is the sort of thing we have always longed to see, and if Geo. Connor says we ever said a word against this sort of thing, he is Annanias No. 2. His taste is lamentably questionable in his kissing programme. We would have left out Parvin and all the balance of the stags and consigned the entire shipment to the girls and matrons.

They must have had a glorious time.

Rev'd Bro. J. C. W. Coxe & Co. are the authors of an admirable report on Correspondence, covering seventy-nine pages, in which most of the Templar family receives due and courteous attention. Mississippi for 1892-'93 among the rest.

Commenting on our remarks anent Cerneauism, he says:

He is sure that all legislation touching "Cerneauism" is wrong and "extremely stupid," and asks: "What right has Masonry to say to what other order I may belong? It would be just as sensible for the order to place one or more of the religious denominations under the ban and forbid our belonging to them." Not so, good frater; you mistake the issue. No Grand Lodge has yet entered into a treaty of comity and friendship with any branch of the church; but Grand Lodges have established such relations with other Masonic Bodies and out of these relations springs the legislation complained of. It is solely for the defense of craft Masonry, upon the integrity of which depends the stability of the whole Masonic fabric. The "let-it-alone" policy may be all right when no danger threatens, but when life is imperilled we prefer to shoot rather than to sing lullabys.

The Correspondence report "is ponderous, grand, imposing, and interesting." He clips approvingly and freely nearly two pages. He has our thanks for kind words concerning our honored *confrere*.

Upon the physical qualifications of candidates he has this word, called out by a Wisconsin decision barring a man with a crooked leg.

He naively asks, in answer to our remark: "If the object of the order is higher, holier and more commendable, then let us look at the character, not the legs, of candidates. Why not look at both?"

To which we reply, that would be wise and proper, provided your scrutiny is not so critical as to bar the perfect man, in life and character, because he may have a game leg or none at all.

We would like to clip some other items from this report, but the space for Iowa is full. Our good Bro. W. I. Babb, whose name is also signed to the report, is R. E. Grand Commander of Iowa Templars, 4,200 strong; Bro. Alf. Wingate is still Grand Recorder, and Bro. Coxie is Chairman of the Foreign Correspondence Committee.

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#### ILLINOIS—1893.

The Thirty-seventh Annual was held in Chicago, October 24th, There were present R. E. Sir Chas. G. Mac, Grand Commander, E. Sir Gilbert B. Barnard, Grand Recorder, eighteen Past Grand Commanders, thirty Grand Representatives, ours among them, and Representatives of fifty-seven subordinate Commanderies.

The R. E. opens his admirable address as follows:

##### *Sir Knights:*

As your Grand Commander, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you a cordial welcome to this, our Thirty-seventh Annual Conclave, where we have the honor of dedicating with our presence as a Grand Body, this beautiful Asylum, in the grandest Masonic Temple in the world.

Owing to the seemingly inexcusable delay in the promulgation of the new Rituals, the work for the Templar year now closing is not what it would have been under ordinary circumstances. Work was held back as long as possible, and in some cases indefinitely postponed, because newly elected officers would not learn the old Ritual when they were daily expecting the new. Inspections were postponed from time to time, for the same reasons, and the most arduous duty of your Grand Commander has been trying to explain to the officers of subordinate Commanderies why it took months to accomplish what, apparently, ought to have been done in as many weeks. But, notwithstanding this drawback, enough work has been done to show that this Grand Jurisdiction has taken no steps backward, some Commanderies doing more work than in previous years.

From his decisions we quote:

Also question from Eminent Commander of Chicago, No. 19, as to the status of a Red Cross Knight, who had received that order, and had then been objected to, and objections sustained by a vote of the Commandery. I replied that the Red Cross Knight had an undoubted right to sit in a council of Red Cross Knights of the Commandery who created him, as long as no further action was taken; but if the Red Cross Knight was unworthy of receiving the Templar Orders, he was also unworthy of sitting in a Red Cross council, and it was the duty of the Commandery to prepare charges and have him tried upon them.

May 13, I received the following from Gorin Commandery, No. 14: Several years since, Gorin Commandery rejected a candidate who is now, and has been for several years past, residing in Chicago. Question—Does Gorin Commandery still retain jurisdiction over him? I answered, yes. I so answered because it is the law of the Grand Encampment; but I do not believe it is a good law. If the

companion continued to reside near the jurisdiction that rejected him, where they could at all times get correct information as to his moral character, habits and occupation, it would perhaps work no injustice; but in a case where the applicant has moved to a different part of the State, or perhaps out of it, it seems to be very unreasonable to allow perpetual jurisdiction over him.

There certainly ought to be some limit as to length of time a Commandery, or, as is usually the case, an individual, can prevent the advancement of a Royal Arch Mason, but I fail to find any in the code.

We concur in the first and last clauses. The law of perpetual jurisdiction over a rejected candidate is, we think, a good one, Bro. Mac's objections to the contrary notwithstanding.

The following applies equally well in Mississippi as in Illinois, and we commend it to the careful consideration of some officers, and would-be officers, who fail to follow the Ritual even fairly well, and are about as capable of throwing feeling or impressiveness into his work as an ordinary politician is to tell the truth:

To follow the Ritual "fairly well," or absolutely, is of no credit to an officer if he is unable to throw any feeling or impressiveness in his manner of doing the work, and to confer the orders in any other manner is not only defrauding the candidate, but creating a member who will never have that respect and reverence for the teachings of the Order that a Knight Templar ought to have; a "parrot-like" repetition of the mere words of the Rituals may put a candidate in possession of the esoteric work of the Order, but will not create any enthusiasm for our sublime principles, or an affection for the Order. I trust the officers referred to will remedy the matter complained of, or if unable to do so, that they will take enough interest in the welfare of their Commandery to assist in the election of those who can.

As a whole, the address is A1 in all respects, and a credit to its author and the great jurisdiction over which he presided. The reports of inspecting officers and the returns show the Order to be in excellent shape.

Proceedings mostly local. Total membership 8,881, a gain of 296.

The Correspondence is the work of our venerable friend and brother, John Carson Smith, his fifth effort, and like all literary emanations from this distinguished source, it is "all wool and a yard wide." We are inclined, however, to follow the example of Bro. Guilbert, of Iowa, in his treatment of us, and read him a lecture on his propensity to flatter, both Reporters and Grand Commanders, when reviewing their deliverances. Some of these papers are really meritorious, our's for instance, and deserve the highest encomiums, but this indiscriminate praise is likely to puff up and render unduly proud some who do not deserve it. Connor, of Tennessee, and Swain, of Wisconsin, for example!

Under California we find this:

We hope there are but few, nay, we know there are but few Templars in the Golden State to which the following can apply, and we here state of our own knowledge that it cannot be as truthfully applied to Illinois fratres now as it could have been a few years ago. The standard of morality, sobriety and intelligence in this Grand Jurisdiction is upward and onward and far in advance of what it was twenty years ago. We believe, nay we know, that the same is true throughout the Templar world.

We do not object to the caution, but do object to the charge and deny that it is true.

I now pass to the consideration of a matter which I believe to be of great importance as touching the welfare, the safety and the perpetuity of this magnanimous order. It cannot be gainsaid, controverted, or denied, that there is a growing tendency among our Knights Templar towards over-indulgence in the intoxicating cup. Wine flows freely at many of our festal boards, and the "Knightly toast" too deeply quaffed, and too often repeated, becomes at last but a vapid emanation from a muddled brain, instead of a dignified sentiment prompted by a high and holy impulse and flowing from a pure and generous heart. The "social glass" has become so fashionable an indulgence that it often takes first place in the exchange of Knightly courtesies, and leads its participants into places where it is a positive disgrace for a Christian Knight to enter or remain.

We are inclined to the belief that the R. E. Grand Commander knew better whereof he spoke than Bro. Carson gives him credit for. It was necessary, at one time, for Paul to make some remarks about a similar state of affairs in one of the churches where the celebration of the Lord's Supper was made the occasion for excess, even to drunkenness, and we suspect that these bibulous Christians were very similar in their utter lack of any part or lot in the spirituality of the religion of Christ, to these, alleged Templars, who can see no higher aim or object in the institution than an opportunity for displays and bachanalian revels. We are also disposed to believe that this peculiar character of Templar is more general than our good brother Smith seems to think.

We have had the honor to remark, on several former occasions, that neither wine or strong drink has any place at a Templar or Masonic banquet, and the observation of our California brother too sadly demonstrates the truth of the proposition. We dismiss the subject now with the remark that these adjuncts to accelerate the downward passage of human souls to hell are equally out of place at headquarters at Triennials, on a Christian's side-board, table, in his pantry, jug or stomach. The religion of Christ, or even a fairly pure morality, and strong drink, won't mix worth a cent!

Bro. Smith's review of Mississippi is very pleasant and his attention to this Committee extremely so. His estimate of our calibre, etc., is flattering and much too high. We copy as follows, having first uncovered:

Correspondence, 57 pages of "facts, figures, clippings, and remarks," by the afflicted and long-suffering but not "cranky or dyspeptic," though humorous, Enoch George DeLap. Are we correct, dear Sir Enoch? We never knew what that "E." was for before, but thought it "Eminent," or better yet "Excellent" George DeLap. Do you forgive us, Brother George?

We feel right here as if we could lay down our pen, and think we better do so, for no one can do justice to the crisp, rattling review before us. It needs to be read in its entirety to be appreciated, and no extract or comment but will mar its beauty and detract from its force.

In Frater DeLap's introductory occurs the following, which is the key to his character—a terseness even to bluntness appears to rule, but to those who read understandingly there will be found over, about, and around Sir George—"George" is the name by which he is best known—a truthful earnestness and sincerity of purpose which makes all his writings as charming as his friendship."

We are disposed to forgive our friend for all he is likely to do of a disreputable sort, so long as he follows the bent of his mind sanctified by divine grace. May God bless him and all the noble army of Templars of Illinois.

Right E. Sir Harvey Milton Hall is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent both continued.

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### INDIANA—1893.

Thirty-ninth Annual was held in the city of Indianapolis, April 19th. There were present R. E. Joseph A. Manning, Grand Commander; E. Wm. H. Smythe, Grand Recorder, and the Representatives of thirty-six subordinate Commanderies, a long list of Past Grand Officers, Past Eminent Commanders and Grand Representatives.

The Grand Commander's address is very long, well written and interesting. We clip a part of the "opening chorus:"

**SIR KNIGHTS**—The fires of another Templar year are burning low, and as we calmly and thoughtfully watch the dying embers, which within a few short hours will have entirely ceased flickering, let us see what there is to commend in Templar Masonry of the past, and so far as lies in our power formulate plans for its future development and grandeur.

Remembering the Templar martyrs of old, for whom the faggot had no terrors, let us stand boldly in the light, defending the precepts of our Order, and by the purity of our lives and the rectitude of our conduct, prove to the world there is something more than a name in Templar Masonry.

He who holds us in the hollow of His hand, and who notes even the fall of the sparrow, has not, during the year now nearly ended, been unkind to our beloved Order. Throughout our own, as well as sister jurisdictions, peace, prosperity and knightly courtesy have prevailed, and as we meet once more around our Templar altar, we have much for which to be grateful.

We are not looking for martyrs among the Templars of this day and age. If we were, we would get left.

Just tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the Templar dead both of his own and other jurisdictions. He reports an increase of membership of 266, and a total of 2,989, and an increase of revenue of \$552.35.

His dispensations were all for practical purposes. We commend the following to the notice of our brethren of Vermont, with the simple remark that the people of Indiana are likely to be as loyal, intelligent and sound in judgment as are those of Vermont:

I declined to issue a dispensation for a Commandery to appear in public in full Templar costume on Memorial Day for the purpose of participating in the memorial services. I submitted as my reasons, the following: While fully in accord with the patriotism and grateful feeling of a nation toward the citizen soldiery who risked their lives and spilled their blood on many a hard fought field in defense of that nation's flag and honor, and while I acknowledge no more ardent and zealous supporter of the claims of the American soldier than myself, I am unable to see in this what, under our law, can be termed a Masonic occasion. While the patriotic feeling that prompts the asking of a dispensation for the purpose named, stirs and warms my heart as one of the loyal supporters of this great republic, who is proud to say that he was a member of that grand army whose fallen hero's graves are yearly decked with nature's choicest flowers in token of a nation's gratitude, I regret that I am compelled to decline to issue the dispensation asked for. Let us rather, Sir Knights, lay aside our Templar garb, and as citizens show our regard for those who offered the sacrifice of their lives upon the

altar of their country's salvation, remembering that no prouder title comes to us than to be able to say, I am a citizen of the Republic.

From his decisions we quote this :

Answer.—In the absence of any special mention in our law of proper or improper days when the Orders can or can not be conferred, I am led to say that in my opinion, the Sabbath is not a proper day for the work, except in the case of a Red Cross Knight, who being in "extremis," desires Templar burial. I am free to admit that it would be legal, and a Knight so made could not be dispossessed of his title and rights. I should, however, deprecate any seeming necessity other than that noted above for conferring the Order on Sunday.

After rendering my decision, I discussed the question with the Most Eminent Grand Master, John P. S. Gobin, who assured me of his full approval of my action. (See proceedings of Grand Encampment, Decision VII, page 14.)

We do not concur. As we have before remarked, we can see no harm in occasionally conferring the Order of the Temple on the Lord's day, provided the hour does not conflict with church service. The idea of a man in "extremis" and in his senses desiring the conferring of any degree in Masonry, strikes us as being absurd. The fact that Grand Master Gobin says it is wrong to engage in the solemn ceremonies of the Temple, makes no sort of difference. They are only men, like the balance of us, and, in a question of morals, their opinion is no better than ours or Bro. Connor's. But we must subside. Proceedings local.

We have devoted so much space already to our Hoosier brethren, that we can only spare a word or two for the, as usual, excellent report on Correspondence, which is the work of Past Grand Commander Ruckle, and reviews the transactions of most of the Templar family, Mississippi, for 1892, included. He quotes Fred's entire Law Report with pleasant remarks. Also our squirt in regard to "Memorial Day" parades, but without comment. May God continue to be good to our Indiana brethren.

Sir Simeon S. Johnson is R. E. Grand Commander; E. Sir Lorenzo Dow Croninger is Grand Recorder, and R. E. N. R. Ruckle is Correspondent.

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#### KENTUCKY—1893.

The Forty-sixth Annual was held at Mammoth Cave, May 17th. The proceedings were opened with the "Office of Public Worship" conducted by Grand Prelate Thompson, who delivered an eloquent sermon on the occasion.

Sir Charles Henry Fiske presided as R. E. Grand Commander; Sir L. D. Croninger, Grand Recorder. Anent our good brother, Croninger, we find the following loose slip in the "pamphlet," at which we heartily rejoice:

From the Covington Daily *Commonwealth*, July 13, 1893:

Lorenzo D. Croninger, who has been confined to his home since June 28th, with a slight stroke of paralysis, is now entirely out of danger, and is again seen upon the streets. His right side was affected, and although he lost the sense of feeling, he always retained that of motion. It is expected that in a few weeks hence he will be as well as ever.

The Grand Commander's address is a business document from start to finish. Appropriate and eloquent tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the

Knightly dead, among others, P. G. Commander January, who was elected to the office after he had become totally blind. No doubt the eyes so long closed upon the beauties of the Lord's earth took on an added lustre when they were opened on the glories of the City of God. The death roll is large.

Touching the matter of "Invasion," the R. E. thus sensibly expatiates:

#### INVASION OF TERRITORY

Is an expression which should, in my judgment, never be heard from a Knight Templar. We have in the United States one General Grand Body. We also have local governing Grand Bodies. I have been asked to grant permission to a Commandery in Kentucky to invade the jurisdiction in Indiana—to visit in Ohio—upon invitation. I have declined to grant any such requests. If a brief visit by Knights of one jurisdiction to Knights of another jurisdiction, be an invasion of the territory in which the Knights visited are located, no Grand Commander has authority to grant the visiting Knights the right to make an invasion. If a Commandery in Kentucky can not visit a Commandery in Indiana, Ohio or Illinois, upon invitation of the latter, without the granting of a dispensation from the Grand Commander of Kentucky to go, and a dispensation of the Grand Commander of Ohio, Indiana or Illinois, to accept the invitation, I confess I have wholly misunderstood the intent and object of our noble Orders.

Away with such nonsense. If your Grand Commander should be invited to attend a meeting of a Grand or Subordinate Commandery in Indiana, must he first ask and obtain the consent of this Grand Commandery to accept the invitation, and must the Grand Commander of Indiana authorize the invitation to be extended before it be sent!!

Visits between Commanderies tend to the cultivation of those courtesies and friendly ties of which we so loudly boast. I trust the time will never come when they will be deemed hostile, or invasions. As well might a visit of any citizen in Kentucky to any point in Ohio be termed an invasion of Ohio, as for a Knightly visit of a Templar or Commandery in Kentucky, to a Commandery in Ohio, to be termed an invasion of Ohio.

There would be just as much sense and reason for requiring a citizen of Kentucky, who might wish to visit a friend in Ohio, to obtain permission from the Governor of Kentucky, to make the visit, as for requiring a Knight Templar in Kentucky to obtain from the Grand Commander of Kentucky permission to visit a Commandery in Ohio.

As well might it be required that the Governor of Ohio grant permission to a citizen of that State to invite a citizen of Kentucky to visit him, as to require that the Grand Commander of Ohio grant a Commandery in his State permission to extend a courteous invitation to a Commandery in Kentucky to accept its hospitality and witness its work.

I may have said more than the necessities of the case demanded. I have been led to do so, only because of the applications which have been made to me by those who feared they could not accept an invitation from a Commandery in another State without a special dispensation from me authorizing it.

All of which we heartily endorse. The address, as a whole, is an admirable paper. Proceedings local; Order in good shape. Past Grand Commander Chas. R. Woodruff is again the author of an excellent report on Foreign Correspondence, in which the transactions of forty-two Templar Grand Bodies are carefully and courteously digested, Mississippi for 1892 receiving due attention.

Referring to "Our Fred's" celebrated Law report, he says: "We cannot account for the flippant style in which the fifth question is treated, unless Judge Speed acted upon the Solomonian principle of answering a fool according to his

folly." That is about the size of it. Bro. Woodruff's review of our report is pleasant and fraternal.

Sir Thomas Jefferson Flournoy is Grand Commander. Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### KANSAS—1893.

The Twenty-fourth Annual was held in the city of Topeka, May 9th. Sir Edward C. Culp, R. E., Grand Commander; Sir Bestor G. Brown, Grand Recorder. Thirty-four Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is short but well written and confined mostly to local matters. He pays special tribute to the memory and worth of Past Grand Commander and Recorder John H. Brown, who had passed away during the year. He had been in active service for twenty-two years and no doubt deserved the highest place in the hearts and affections of his brethren, both at home and abroad. Peace to his ashes.

He issued four dispensations for new Commanderies, which indicates a healthy condition of the Order in that jurisdiction. Anent "Buncombe" parades we clip the following as being sound sense:

I have refused several applications for dispensations to permit Commanderies to appear in public parades of various kinds. Not only has this Grand Commandery clearly expressed itself upon that subject but it has been a long established ruling of the Grand Encampment that it is not competent for Commanderies to appear in public except upon Masonic occasions; and the definition of Masonic occasions is left to the ruling of the Grand Lodge. Those who compose our Commanderies also compose our Lodges, and it seems strange that application should be made to a Grand Commander for permission to appear in public on occasions when it would never be thought of to prefer a similar request to the Grand Master for permission for a Lodge to appear as such in public parades. Templarism is not concerned in the pomp and pageant of public display.

His decisions are, in our opinion, correct, and the Grand Body so decided.

The Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of over \$5,000. We find nothing further in the minutes of general interest.

Sir D. Byington is the author of the report on Foreign Correspondence and is a worthy successor of our late Bro. Brown. The minutes of thirty-nine Grand Bodies are carefully digested in this report, our own for 1892 getting a page and a half. He quotes the celebrated Law Report in full, but without comment.

Sir Clark Gray is Grand Commander; Sir D. Byington, Grand Recorder and Chairman of Foreign Correspondence Committee.

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#### LOUISIANA—1893.

The Thirtieth Annual was held in the City of New Orleans, February 17th. Present, Sir Samuel Alston, Grand Commander; Sir Richard Lambert, P.G.C., Grand Recorder, and the representatives of Subordinate Commanderies.



The address of Grand Commander is short but good. We copy his opening:

SIR KNIGHTS—May our Divine Redeemer be with us in spirit on this, our Thirtieth Annual Conclave; preserve with us that beautiful spirit of harmony and fraternal good feeling; aid us with His wisdom in our deliberations of the day, and in our reviewing of all our doings of the past year, strengthen us in all our efforts and endeavors to advance our noble Order.

Let us be thankful for the blessings He has bestowed upon us during the past year, while we bow in humble submission to His decrees.

He has this to say of uniform. The enforcement of these expensive ideas may account for the workings of the Order in Louisiana—and it may not:

I find many of the Sir Knights without uniforms, and to correct this in the future, would suggest that the following be added to our by-laws:

"All Red Cross Knights shall procure a full Templar uniform, or deposit with the recorder of his Commandery a sum of money not to exceed \$50 and not less than \$40; the same to be applied to the procuring of a uniform for the Sir Knight so depositing before he can receive the Order of the Temple. It shall be the duty of the recorder to purchase for the Sir Knight so depositing, with as little delay as possible, a full Templar uniform."

His decisions are in accord with the code of the Grand Encampment. Proceedings local. Report of Grand Recorder shows a net gain of 17.

There is no report on correspondence this year, but as they have a committee headed by P. G. M. J. Q. A. Fellows, we hope for one next year.

Sir Chas. F. Buck is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder re-elected and Correspondent as above.

Total membership, 280.

#### MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND—1893.

Two special Conclaves were held: The first for the purpose of constituting St. George Commandery and installing its officers, and the second for conducting the funeral service of the late V. E. Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Nathan S. Kimball. The Semi-Annual was held in Providence, May 25.

The Grand Commander's semi-annual address is short and contains nothing of general interest except that he permitted two of his Subordinates to "travel and parade" over into New Hampshire, and he gravely adds: "Permission was given the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire" to "enter his jurisdiction"! How kind and considerate, and, withal, how perfectly childish and simple all this!

The Eighty-seventh Annual was held in the "Hub," October 26, R. E. Wm. H. H. Soule, Grand Commander presiding. There were 238 members of the body present.

The Grand Commander's address is a business paper and treats exclusively of matters of no general interest. He issued a great many dispensations, but all for legitimate purposes. His decisions are in accord with the law, as it stands. The Order is in a healthy and prosperous condition. The proceedings are local. Total membership, 9,911—a gain of 322.

The Correspondence covers 95 pages and is double-barreled, being the joint production of Bros. Rugg and Finch, and is first-class in all respects. In order

that you may fully understand how they "run the machine"—excuse the slang—we copy the "opening chorus," entire, withholding our approval of some of Bro. Rugg's propositions, as we consider a "rapid fire" single-barrel gun superior to what is known as the "machine gun."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence submits this report, which is the result of a division of labor according to the plan that was followed last year. At the close of each section of the review, as denoted by Templar jurisdiction, the initial of the reviewer is placed, showing to which member of the committee responsibility attaches. The Chairman of the Committee prepared the introductory and concluding portions of the report.

Reports on Templar Correspondence usually are the productions of a single pen. The chairman of the committee writes the report even though several names are appended to it. Of course a paper thus prepared will show the thought of its author—will be harmonious with itself. When the work of review is divided among several writers, it is possible that the work as a whole may be less symmetrical; but, on the other hand, there will be more variety in the expression of comments, and quite likely an increase of interest and value. Each method has some special recommendations. Two years ago the chairman wrote the entire report, last year Sir Knight Finch and the writer prepared the report, and were not far apart in their conclusions. Taken as a whole the report thus produced did not lack in unity, albeit there was no abridgment of individual expression on the part of either correspondent. The present paper will speak for itself.

As related to the arrangement for dual work in preparing this report, it may be said that each member of the committee has found ample employment for his spare hours in reading the eighteen or twenty volumes of proceedings that came under his examination, and reviewing the same according to their deservings. The printed transactions grow more bulky year by year, and each of the committee whose names are subscribed to this report has turned several thousand pages of published proceedings, reports, etc., in doing the work of reviewer as herewith shown. The examination of proceedings is in itself no light task. Then, also, there must be some exercise of thought in treating important topics; authorities must be consulted; statements verified; and a work of analysis, selection and arrangement performed, for which time and some degree of mental aptitude are requisite, while the value of such work of review will be augmented by the Masonic and Templar knowledge shown in its production—a knowledge to be gained only by diligent study and long experience.

Is it worth while to attempt such a work of review and presentation? Does it pay to have prepared and sent out reports on Templar Correspondence? Brethren who respond in the negative say that these reports are not passed upon by the body to which they are addressed, that they lack official endorsement, and that, however much of merit they may possess, they have but few readers. It may be granted that there is force in these statements, yet they do not seem conclusive arguments against providing for such reports. Masons and Knight Templars do not read, to the extent that seems desirable, the publications that represent these organizations; but some there are who read what is thus provided, and these, in the very nature of things, should have consideration. The standard should be fixed according to the judgment of those who appreciate Masonic and Templar literature, and who have the earnest purpose to broaden and deepen the lines of cultured thought and true knowledge. Thus a wholesome work of education will be done and progress secured, even if for a time the actual results of such efforts are not altogether satisfactory.

Reports on Correspondence ought to be more instructive and interesting—then, no doubt, they would be more generally read; but, with all their defects, these reports, even as now produced, are believed to have value, for their ministry of usefulness is endorsed by a goodly number of brothers and Sir Knights who rank among the most enlightened and zealous members of the Order.

Upheld by such an assurance our present work is undertaken with some degree of confidence. We appreciate the fact that it is our privilege to hold a reviewer's pen at a time when the conditions that affect Templary are of a generally auspicious character. We address our report, primarily, to a strong and influential jurisdiction, wherein we rejoice that our lines have fallen. But we also speak for and to the illustrious Order wherever established, and have a glad and grateful feeling for all its glory of past achievements, its present resources, its prospects and opportunities of increasing honor and usefulness. And we also have in thought our brothers, the Correspondents representing different Templar jurisdictions, a noble band of workers with whom we are glad to be associated, and to whom we proffer the greeting that comes warm from the heart and charged with kind wishes for each and for all.

Our brethren consider the transactions of most of the Templar world—our pamphlet for 1893 receiving courteous attention. Bro. Rugg being at the helm.

He has this to say of our report :

Another characteristic report on Correspondence accompanies the Proceedings under review. He quotes from our report, and is glad to recognize our position in regard to the attendance of Knights Templars at Church in uniform as in substantial accord with his own. We hold with Brother DeLap that it is every way better and more becoming for a Commandery to attend Church service without uniforms and swords. This has been our opinion for many years.

It seems from this that we are not entirely alone in the idea that it is better to leave the swords and uniforms in the Asylum when we go to church.

He has these remarks anent our review of Ohio by proxy :

Under Ohio, he refers to Sir Knight Carson's paper in the formation of Grand Encampment ; declaring his own want of information on the subject treated, Bro. DeLap called in Sir Frederic Speed who reviews the same in terms of approval. It seems more than passing strange that a careful student of Templar history should be led into such errors of statement. Perhaps when our distinguished brother goes over the whole matter again, after having read Past Grand Master Hopkins' masterly presentation of the subject, he may be led to modify some of his conclusions.

As a whole, from start to finish, the report is admirable. We would like to clip the closing also, as it is really an eloquent production, but it is too long.

Sir Chas. C. Fry is Grand Commander ; Sir Benj. W. Rowell is Grand Recorder ; Sir R. E. Sir Rev. H. W. Rugg, D. D., and E. Sir Rev. P. V. Finch, constitute the Correspondence Committee.

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#### MISSOURI—1893.

The Thirty-second Annual was held in St. Louis, April 25th. Sir David W. Wallace, Grand Commander ; Sir W. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder ; fifty-five Subordinate and twenty-eight Grand Commanderies were represented.

The address of Grand Commander is rather spicy, is well written and interesting. His decisions are correct, except this one : "A Commandery has no power, under the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, to confer the Orders of Knighthood upon a candidate accepted by another Commandery, as an act of courtesy."

The fact that Sec. 1, Title XXXVIII, Code of Statutes says so and so, makes no sort of difference. The proposition does violence to common sense and should, therefore, be rejected..

It is about time that the interference of the Central Excrescence in the domestic affairs of the Subordinate Commanderies should be stopped. Of course the R. E. decided correctly, as the law is, but we would have set the law aside and been courteous as well as sensible.

Under the head of "Delinquencies," he wades into somebody for neglect of duty in not making returns and paying dues to the Grand Encampment, and when the Missouri delegation arrived at Denver, they found themselves out in the cold, owing to this frightful negligence. All this was sad, and would have been sadder had it not been adjusted.

We suppose our good friend Mayo is the head villain in this "delinquency" business, but as he was re-elected Grand Recorder, and seems to be quite lively still, we presume he will survive the ordeal. Seriously, we feel sure that no intentional or avoidable neglect of an important duty can justly be laid at his door.

We note in the proceedings, that in this jurisdiction not only the delegates from the Subordinate Commanderies, but also the Grand Officers and Past Grand Commanders in attendance are paid mileage and per diem, and that, notwithstanding all this, there is a balance in the Treasury of over \$6000!

We also find the following:

#### PERSONAL.

The V. E. Deputy Grand Commander presiding, the Grand Recorder arose to a question of privilege, and made an oral statement in explanation of matters referred to by the Grand Commander in his address, under the head of "Delinquencies."

E., Sir R. E. Anderson read and offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The R. E. Grand Commander has seen fit, in his address, to refer to and criticise the dereliction of duty upon the part of our Grand Recorder, in not making his returns to the Grand Encampment, which met at Denver the past year, in proper time; and,

WHEREAS, the Grand Recorder has before this Grand Body frankly acknowledged the omission, alluding in connection therewith to extenuating circumstances, such as extraordinary demands upon his time and press of business during the triennial year, and the fact that he met with a severe accident, which for a time prevented his attending to the duties of his office; and having his assurance that such delinquency (the first in fifteen years of official life) shall not recur: and,

WHEREAS, The sentiment of every true and courteous Knight should be—

"Let us no more contend, nor blame  
Each other, blamed enough elsewhere, but strive  
In offices of love how we may lighten  
Each other's burden, in our share of woe."

And those memorable words of our Savior, "He that is without sin among you let him cast the first stone," should ever be kept in mind; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the dereliction, so magnanimously confessed, be and the same is hereby freely forgiven, and our Grand Recorder acquitted of any intentional wrong to this Grand Body.

That's what we 'lowed.

Bro. Mayo is again the architect of the Correspondence report—his sixteenth,

as this is ours—and like its predecessors, is all wool and a yard wide. He claims the honor of being the only compiler of accurate statistical tables for several years, and glories in the fact that his tables have been copied, not only by Reporters, but by Masonic and secular magazines and papers in the United States and Canada. As this reflects somewhat on the correctness of similar work by Sir Stephen, of Maine, there is a kick coming to him, which will make things spicy. Mississippi for 1892 gets five pages of attention in this excellent report. He quotes Fred's "Law Report" entire, and remarks as follows:

The first and second decisions are undoubtedly correct. The third we think incorrectly answered, or rather that the answer is not entirely pertinent to the question. The question assumes that he was suspended only by his Lodge, in which case restoration in the Lodge would restore him in the Commandery. Decision four is in accordance with Mississippi law, but the advice is good to Masons in any jurisdiction. The fifth decision, if it applies to petitions for the orders, is certainly incorrect, but if to applications for affiliation it is all right. But whether to the former or the latter, the last sentence seems to us a reflection on the regulations of Knight Templarism in the United States which is undeserved, and which, if read by Royal Arch Masons, will not serve to increase their zeal to press forward to higher attainments. If the Grand Commandery agrees with the Committee, it should abolish all regulations appertaining to uniforms. Or, if the law of the Grand Encampment relegating the subject to Grand Commanderies be construed to mean that some uniform must be adopted, we suggest plug hat, black frock coat and black pants, with patent leather boots—shirt and vest optional.

Of our report he says, among other things: "He is 'dead set' against what he calls 'Dress Parade Piety' and 'Uniformed Religion'—that is, the attending of Knights Templar in uniform at religious services, as, for instance, on Ascension Day or other 'Templar Days,'" and adds: "It is needless to say that we disagree with him. We believe in sacred worship [So do we.]—the private communing of the soul with its Maker [So do we.]—but we also believe in public worship, the 'assembling of ourselves together' to render in unison prayer and thanksgiving to Almighty God, and in doing forms are necessary, and uniform, while not indispensable, is appropriate." This is all right except the last word, "appropriate," which we deny *in toto*. We believe in *devotion* and *worship* firmly, but it is the fear that the uniform and sword will detract from the earnestness of the worship that causes us to object to them.

Sir Charles S. Glaspell is Grand Commander. Sir. Wm. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder and Reporter.

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#### MARYLAND—1892.

The Twenty-second Annual was held in the city of Baltimore, November 22d. Sir Knight Stephen R. Mason, R.: E.: Grand Commander; Sir Jno. Hy. Miller, Grand Recorder.

Seven Subordinate Commanderies were represented and quite a number of State Grand Bodies, among the rest, Mississippi. The address is a good one and contains many timely suggestions for the good of the Order and the betterment

of its members. Among other things, he suggests the dropping from official station such officers as have been inattentive to their duties and the obligation to attend the meetings of their respective commands. The returns show a net increase of thirty during the year, and he says the prospects look bright for the coming year. He reports the death of three Past Grand Commanders during the year and pays appropriate tribute to the memory and worth of these and a large number of other valiant Knights who have passed within the veil of death.

He notes the fact that over one hundred Templars attended church on "Ascension Day," "headed by Wright's Band!" Comment is needless and would do no good. The address as a whole, is an excellent one.

We find nothing in the proceedings of general interest.

The report on Correspondence, covering more than a hundred pages, is the work of our old friend, Past Grand Commander Ferd. J. S. Gorgas, and digests the doings of thirty-eight Templar Grand Bodies, gorgeously and well, Mississippi for 1892 getting due attention in four pages of extracts, mostly from Fred's law report.

As Bro. Gorgas is so chary of criticising we are constrained to copy his "conclusion" because it is good and to show you the caliber of the man.

#### CONCLUSION.

The completion of this report reminds us that another year has passed away with the many changes which so brief a period has accomplished.

It also revives our memory of the many esteemed Fratres who have within that limited period passed over the silent river of death to the Asylum beyond, and with whom our Masonic life has been so closely connected, that at every Conclave of our Grand Body we experience an aching void, and sadly recall many a scene in which they participated, and to which the world was not a witness. Scarcely a month now passes that we are not called upon to mourn Masonic Brothers, Companions and Fratres, both of our own and sister jurisdictions, whose departure recalls many imperishable incidents of our Masonic career with which they were connected.

It also impresses us with the feeling of belonging to an age that is rapidly passing away and the beginning of another in which others will assume the duties we have performed for Masonry. But such is life—a beginning and an end.

When we closed our report of 1891, it was with the hope that before the completion of another, our Masonic Bodies in Maryland would be installed in their renovated Temple. But labor troubles, the elements, and other causes have delayed the work to such a degree that another year may elapse before we can again occupy our Masonic Home.

It is, however, gratifying to know that we shall not be disappointed in the magnificence and convenience of the restored Temple.

Courteously submitted,

FERDINAND J. S. GORGAS, P. G. C., Chairman.

Sir Wm. A. Ruby is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporter unchanged.

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#### MICHIGAN—1893.

The Thirty-seventh Annual was held at Bay City, May 16th. Sir Jefferson S.

Conover, Grand Commander, R.: E.: W. P. Innes, Grand Recorder. We write this last name with a feeling of profound sorrow and sadness. But a few short weeks after the close of the session, this most courteous, loveable and Knightly of all of us, doffed his armor, bid adieu to the trials and sufferings, the joys and comforts of earth, passed through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, where he feared no evil, for the Blessed One was with him; His arm supported and staff comforted and sustained him, from thence to an eternity of happiness at God's right hand, among the blest in Heaven.

Give joy or grief, give ease or pain,  
Take life or friends away;  
But let me find them all again  
In that eternal day.

We tender our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the family of our beloved friend. His loss to them, to the Templars of Michigan and the world is irreparable.

An address of welcome from the local Commandery, responded to by the Grand Commander, both gems of eloquence, were a feature of the opening.

Our good friend, Grand Master Hugh McCurdy, being present, was received with appropriate honors and felicitous speeches. We excerpt the following from the Grand Master's remarks:

We are in the world to influence it for God and the right—to teach the sublime principles of our magnanimous Order, the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. This is the gospel we are here to preach. What a fairy gospeler of this truth will this temple be—a common home for every brother from the first to the last degree. Let him who enters here leave all thoughts of division behind. Here is no monopoly of good; no individualism, all are one—and one is all. There never has been an age in which the principles we advocate needed such devotion and positive enunciation as to-day. These principles are obedience to law, human and divine, a delight in good work and heart turned from one's self to others. As Templars, our great exemplar is the Son of Man, who was obedient to the law, human and divine, even unto death on the cross. It cannot be wholly a coincidence that the first meeting of this Grand Body in this Temple should be at this Ascension-tide—commemorative of the ascension of our Divine Master, whose message to His Disciples on the first Easter morning was not, I live, or, I have risen, but "I ascend to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God," thus declaring that all men are brothers, and that every true life is an ascension, a growth to higher things, a growth out of the old home into the new. Out of the old home into the new you have grown. The new life here will be the same, and yet a higher life than the old—here there will be a greater devotion, a more positive philanthropy, because of better opportunities to interpret our creed for men; and unless our life be a constant ascension toward usefulness we are not Templars.

Only observing that the last clause, if true, and it certainly is, leaves many of us out in the cold.

The Grand Commander's address is an excellent one, as becomes the Commander of five thousand Templars, the large majority of whom are Christian gentlemen. Speaking of the Triennial at Denver, he has this to say anent No. 1 of his Command:

In this connection, I should not feel that I was doing my duty without mentioning, with special commendation, the record of Detroit Commandery, No. 1, upon this occasion. Glorious old Commandery—great in numbers; great in the character of the men who compose it; great in the glory of its past achievements; great in all that makes a Commandery great; but greater, grander far in the stand which it has taken as an index to the principles of our Order. The proudest record of anything connected with this triennial conclave is a simple sentence in a public journal, when, in recounting the events of a conclave it said: "No man saw a Detroit badge in a bar room or a saloon while in Denver." Noble old Commandery, whose well-earned fame has spread both far and wide, so that wherever the name of Knight Templar is known, you are known and honored for the Knightly conduct of your members and the glory of your achievements, this simple record, as it shall be repeated from year to year, reflects more real honor upon you than all the renown which you have so justly earned in the past. May this proud record be taken as the watchword in all these future conclaves, until the same thing can be said of every Commandery and every individual Templar participating in these festal occasions; then shall the standard of our Order be raised on high, and men shall say, truly these are consistent, Christian Knights.

I contend that no Knight Templar has a right to frequent saloons or other questionable places, wearing any badge of this order. By so doing, he is lowering our order in the estimation of the public, which knows that such practices are inconsistent with the pure teachings of Christian Knighthood, and no man has any right to injure *me*, to injure *you*, my worthy brother Knight, by bringing ing discredit upon us through his acts.

If our Order ever takes that high place which of right belongs to it, it will be because each member recognizes his individual responsibility to the whole order, and so comports himself as not to degrade it. There never has been a time in the history of humanity, when an individual has not been counted for all that he was worth, and as we, as individuals, make our own lives consistent with the teachings of this order, so shall we bring the order itself up nearer to that exalted station which it should occupy, side by side with the Christian church, working hand in hand with in the grand work of elevating humanity, and bringing man nearer to what his maker designed him to be.

Detroit, No. 1, is the text; the above is the sermon, and a good one it is. His dispensations were all for proper purposes. His decisions were all local. Order in capital shape. Proceedings local. The Correspondence is the work of Bro. Innes, and is his last. We copy his opening, as a monument to his memory and distinguished ability.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### *To the Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan:*

It seems almost incredible that the time has again arrived when we are expected to present another report on Correspondence, but so it is. Time, with its swift wings, has again made the accustomed revolution, and we are reminded that in a very short space of time the thirty-seventh annual conclave will again be busy with its work, and our report be called for to form a part of the proceedings.

How stands the record of the year past, so far as it relates to Templar Masonry? That question will be answered as we travel through the several reports.

Some who were with us one year ago, and from whom we gleaned much that was instructive and pleasant, have left us, and their tongue is silent and their pen useless; they passed the warfare of life; their time of penance is a thing of



the past, and they have been admitted into the presence of the Great Commander and by Him received into full fellowship and crowned with the crown of immortal life.

For one and all we drop a sympathetic tear, and hope when our time shall come that the record we leave behind may be as bright as that of those who have gone before.

We refer with pleasure to the reports, marking, as they do, the progress made by the order of Knighthood the past year.

The banner of the cross keeps pace with civilization everywhere, and indeed is a civilizer of no ordinary power, and thus do the duties of writers of Correspondence increase.

The subjects of interest that present themselves, as we study the several reports, force upon our minds our inability to do justice to all with even the extended space generously allowed us by a generous Grand Commandery. We are therefore reluctantly compelled to confine ourselves to a reasonable space, and we must beg our Sir Knights to pardon us if in all cases they do not receive notice commensurate with their merits.

But we shall endeavor to do our best, returning thanks in advance to our close friend and Sir Knight, H. K. Dean, who not only prints the reports in that artistic style for which we are so often complimented, but who is kindly aiding us in our present report.

We shall review the proceedings of the several States in alphabetical order, so far as we can, and will commence with Alabama.

Nearly all the Templar family receive courteous attention in this ponderous report. Mississippi, for 1892, gets ten pages. He has a pleasant word for all, and is especially pleasant in his handling of your committee. Hear him :

Sir DeLap, the great "kicker" from "Kickersville," writes the report on correspondence. After you have read the same you will know more about men and things than you did when you commenced. You will know that he calls a spade a spade, etc., but for all that he is a brilliant writer and we all like him, not for the enemies he has made, but for the many good things he has said of one and all.

Peace to his ashes.

Sir Hy. L. Anthony is Grand Commander.

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#### MAINE—1893.

The Forty-second Annual was held at Portland, May 4. There were present R. E. Thos. P. Shaw, Grand Commander, E. Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder, and the representatives of 17 out of 19 Commanderies; also a large list of P. G. and R. E. Commanders and Grand Representatives, ours, the venerable Drummond, among the number.

The address is a business document—plain, practical—sensible as becomes the elegant gentleman, its author, whose handsome phiz adorns the pamphlet :

He opens as follows :

DEAR FRATERS—Ever mindful of our duty to God and man, let us, with humble hearts, return our thanks to the Giver of every good and perfect gift for the manifold mercies he has vouchsafed to us, and the bountiful blessings

showered in our path during the past year, and for permitting us to meet again in annual conclave to deliberate and act for the preservation and advancement of our beloved Order.

He issued quite a batch of dispensations, but all for proper purposes. He still adheres to the senseless custom of issuing permits to "invade," only changing the invade to "enter," which, we regret, is the custom, and would be glad if our New England brethren would quit it.

His decisions are sound. His visitations were quite general, and were, no doubt, productive of good. Several of the staff also made reports of visitations. Proceedings local. Order in excellent shape. Total membership, 2,645. A picture of the late venerable and beloved Iry Berry, adds interest to the pamphlet. Our good Bro. Stephen Berry, is the author, as usual, of the Correspondence report, in which due attention is given to the doings of nearly all the Templar family of the Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1892, among the rest. We clip his opening:

*To the R. E. Grand Commandery of Maine:*

Your Committee on Correspondence have the pleasure of submitting their annual report. As some later proceedings will yet come in, the list will be given at the close.

As the chairman commenced his service in this department in the centennial year, this is his eighteenth annual report. Although the path he has come seems somewhat long to look back upon, it has been a very pleasant one, and he has found many flowers in the way. Of the seventeen correspondents whose work he reviewed in 1876, at least five have died, ten have dropped out, and two remain: Innes, of Michigan, who commenced in 1872, and Woodruff, of Kentucky, who commenced in 1874. There are more than twice as many Correspondents now in the field, but there are also more than twice as many Templars in the country.

Bro. Innes has also passed "across the divide" and is among the blest in heaven.

His review of Mississippi, as usual, is fraternal and pleasant. He quotes quite freely from Fred's Law Report and our effort—characterizing the former as "breezy" and the latter as "spicy." We copy.

The correspondence (52 pp.) is by the veteran E. Geo. DeLap, and reviews 37 jurisdictions in his usual spicy way. He is a bad man from way back to meet when he comes galloping on with visor down and lance in rest, but it is fun to stand off and see him go.

He opens by saying that peace and prosperity prevail from the frozen borders of Maine to the sunny glades of the Rio Grande. If we only had him on our verandah, with the thermometer at 80° in the shade, watching the swimmers in the rippling waves below, we venture to say that he would enjoy the freezing.

We would like to be on that verandah and also among the swimmers, but not now; it is too cold here, and must be rather chilly in Bro. Stephen's neighborhood. We copy his "General Table," and say good-bye and God bless you:

GRAND COMMANDERIES.	Subordinates.	Members.	Knighted.	Affiliated.	Re-instated.	Dimitted.	Suspended and Dropped.	Expelled.	Deceased.	Our Last Re- port.
Alabama, May 10, 1893..	9	357	45	7	4	18	19	..	5	342
Arkansas, April 18, 1893.	11	494	52	7	2	9	16	..	8	497
California, April 20, 1893.	34	2790	162	41	13	83	35	..	50	2735
Colorado, June 6, 1893...	22	1583	212	51	5	56	9	1	15	1395
Conn., March 21, 1893...	11	2029	133	5	4	5	15	..	28	1934
Georgia, May 10, 1893...	8	597	64	12	3	19	8	1	14	559
Illinois, October 25, 1892.	61	8524	813	104	36	212	10	3	117	7978
Indiana, April 19, 1893..	36	3255	354	56	10	68	26	1	49	2989
Iowa, September 20, 1892	54	4049	453	122	5	191	52	3	43	3763
Kansas, May 9, 1893.....	34	2938	428	149	5	135	32	..	25	2383
Kentucky, May 17, 1893.	26	1821	132	21	5	57	34	1	36	1804
Louisiana, Feb. 17, 1893.	3	280	13	5	2	1	2	..	14	284
Maine, May 4, 1893.....	19	2645	155	7	6	38	33	..	35	2540
Maryland, Nov. 22, 1892.	8	920	70	6	1	18	9	..	21	890
Mass. & R. I., Oct. 27, '92	44	9589	749	47	12	77	36	6	145	8995
Michigan, May 16, 1893..	42	5000	357	32	9	100	23	1	47	4758
Minnesota, June 24, 1893.	24	2243	170	88	4	98	34	2	31	2148
Mississippi, Feb. 6, 1893..	10	360	72	3	4	9	27	..	4	339
Missouri, April 25, 1893..	56	3929	422	119	19	127	91	..	43	3435
Montana, Sept. 20, 1892..	8	332	42	3	....	12	1	..	5	313
Nebraska, April 11, 1893.	22	1580	224	43	8	41	28	1	11	1386
N. Hamp., Sept. 27, 1892.	10	1740	115	8	....	11	9	..	28	1665
New Jersey, May 9, 1893.	16	1626	108	13	...	20	25	..	23	1511
New York, Sept. 13, 1892	57	9416	721	64	58	94	339	1	132	9139
N. Carolina, May 11, 1893	11	285	29	3	....	11	..	..	5	269
N. Dakota, June 20, 1892	4	229	40	4	....	9	1	..	1	190
Ohio, September 6, 1892.	51	7134	614	88	55	146	101	4	86	6714
Oregon, October 25, 1892	4	327	45	10	2	1	1	..	6	283
Penn., May 24, 1892.....	72	9532	903	162	....	183	151	2	149	9532
S. Dakota, June 19, 1893.	9	660	87	20	4	27	6	..	6	587
Tennessee, May 9, 1893..	16	1096	70	24	4	31	13	..	18	1052
Texas, April 12, 1893....	28	1941	209	28	....	56	53	..	21	1722
Vermont, June 13, 1893..	10	1281	86	1	6	9	1	..	14	1212
Virginia, October 13, 1892	20	1247	150	12	1	27	15	..	14	1138
Washington, June 9, 1893	9	509	57	39	....	6	1	..	6	426
W. Virginia, May 10, 1893	10	701	98	3	2	17	11	..	10	637
Wisconsin, Oct. 11, 1892.	24	2487	189	52	3	82	33	..	35	2388
Wyoming, May 10, 1893..	4	198	19	4	3	6	7	..	1	186
G. En. Subordinates, 1892	30	2653	330	38	18	49	38	..	56	2653
Total, in U. S., 1893.....	927	98,376	8992	1501	313	2159	1345	27	1357	92,821
Canada, July 19, 1892....	30	1053	109	5	12	42	12	..	15	1053
Eng. & Wales, May, 1893.	104	3000	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	3000
Ireland, 1893.....	41	1300	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1300
Scotland, 1893.....	10	450	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	450
Victoria, Australia, 1889.	4	80	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	80
Total in world, 1893 ..	1116	104,259	9102	1506	325	2201	1357	27	1372	98,704

R. E. Horace H. Burbank is Grand Commander. Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

### MINNESOTA—1893.

The Twenty-eighth Annual was held in the city of Minneapolis, June 24th. Sir T. W. Hugo, R. E. Grand Commander, presiding; R. E. Thos. Montgomery, Grand Recorder, Twenty-one Grand, (not including Mississippi), and twenty-four Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address of the Grand Commander covers forty-two pages and is a complete synopsis of his administration, very elaborate and minute in details. When he makes an official deliverance he gives the whole story, the whys and wherefores. Perhaps this is the best way, but our plan would have been to say, "I have done so and so because it was the right thing to do, as I understand it, and if you don't like it just set down on it! Such action may give you pleasure, while it will not disturb my serenity at all!" He devotes much space to the Denver Triennial, giving a running account of the incidents of the trip and the occasion, which is, doubtless, interesting reading to the poor fellows who were prevented from participating therein. His decisions cover seven pages, made up of explanations of why he decided as he did. To illustrate, we quote the 1st and 2d:

#### DECISIONS.

1. A companion Royal Arch Mason, duly recommended, made an application in regular form for the orders of knighthood in "B" Commandery, on Nov. 1, 1892, fully aware at the time that there were two Commanderies in the city. Subsequently he was induced to hand in a petition in regular form and duly recommended to "C" Commandery at their regular conclave on November 7th, and this petition was received and referred to a committee. "B" Commandery had no opportunity to act on the petition made out for them and in possession of the Recorder, as the regular conclave did not convene until November 22d.

QUERY—Has "B" Commandery jurisdiction over said candidate?

ANSWER—Not being able to find any precedent or any law touching on this question, and believing that a Commandery does not acquire jurisdiction over a companion Royal Arch Mason until his petition is regularly received by the Commandery, it was decided in the negative.

2. A Sir Knight induces a companion Royal Arch Mason to make out a petition for the orders to "C" Commandery, he being aware of the existence of a previous petition made to "B" Commandery in the same city, such previous petition not having been acted on by "B" Commandery, for the reason that their regular meeting had not come around, the Sir Knight being unseemingly persistent in his solicitations.

QUERY—Is the offense sufficient to warrant charges being brought against the Sir Knight?

ANSWER—A Sir Knight guilty of such acts as are here recited is guilty of unknighly conduct, and the offense is not only sufficient to warrant the bringing of charges against him, but they should be preferred for the good of the order, to the end that such reprehensible and undignified practices may receive the condemnation and reproof they merit.

Although there may be no statutory declarations as to what may constitute unknighly conduct, it may well be assumed that besides violations of the moral

and civil laws and of our special obligations as Masons and Knights Templar, any breaches of decorum or of the habits or practices commonly and generally agreed upon by custom or unwritten law observed by gentlemen should be construed as being unknighly conduct, as a Knight Templar must be a gentleman first and always.

A Blue Lodge Mason is subject to charges if he "unduly solicits for candidates," but while this is generally conceded without any question in the case of soliciting the profane, it seems to be generally understood that some reasonable latitude is allowable in order to secure candidates for the degrees further advanced than the Entered Apprentice, but this latitude must be limited by the requirements of decency, and so that the peculiar object sought to be obtained by the enforcement of this "rule of the order" may be realized; that is, that the candidate's application may not be brought about by the solicitation of friends, and may be of his own free will and accord in the general sense of the word, and an applicant for any Masonic degree should be able to make the last declaration truthfully, though he may not be called upon to subscribe to the first in all cases. Thus it would seem that to keep within the spirit of the law the latitude given must not be very great, and certainly must not be great enough to permit of the keen competition of business transactions which very often closely approaches the narrow dividing line between legitimate business, so-called, and a criminal transaction.

This keen competition applied to the solicitation of Companions, with a view of securing their applications for membership in a Commandery, would be an undue solicitation, and would warrant the preferment of charges for unknighly conduct.

Also a latitude that would permit of any action considered as derogatory to the dignity or honor of a gentleman must be considered too great, and the use of such methods to solicit a Companion to join a Commandery would be considered ungentlemanly, and consequently unknighly conduct, and would render the user subject to charges, if proven.

A Sir Knight should be censured who would be guilty of such practices, but before being censured he must be tried, and to be tried he must have charges preferred against him; consequently, it would appear that he is subject to having charges brought against him for such conduct as would leave him open to censure.

We are inclined to think that this is a big fuss about nothing. No doubt the culprit in the case is a warm personal friend of the candidate and naturally wants him to join the same Commandery to which he belongs, and his efforts to secure that wish are perfectly justifiable, are neither unknighly or ungentlemanly: hence, there is no cause of action against him.

He refused a dispensation for a Commandery to act as escort to the G. A. R. at the funeral of a Templar, which was eminently correct.

The proceedings were of local interest. Total membership, 2243, a net gain of 97.

Past Grand Commander and Grand Recorder now comes to the front with an admirable report on Correspondence covering seventy-three pages, in which the doings of nearly all the Templar Grand Bodies are courteously and pleasantly considered—our pamphlet for 1893 getting three and one-half pages. Bro. Montgomery's review of our work is very fraternal. He quotes our response to his reply to his observations on some of our fulminations last year, but without comment, hence, we are inclined to think that he is "knocked out." We may be in error about this, and he may "bob up serenely" at some future time and go for

our scalp. He rejoices that the war between our good and talented brother, Enoch, of Ohio, and ourselves, is over, in which we concur. Life is too short and eternity too long to warrant the waste, in quarreling, of the former, when the necessity is laid upon us to prepare for the happy enjoyment of the latter.

We copy his closing, and bid our brother God-speed and pray God's benediction may rest upon him :

#### CONCLUSION.

As a number of proceedings are received in July, we have added their review to our report, so as to make it as complete as possible. Nebraska and Wyoming are not included, as their proceedings, although written for, have not been received, much to our regret. We have not indulged in many comments, but our readers can probably detect how we stand on the several questions discussed. We greatly rejoice at the high standard set up by Grand Commanders and others in their addresses. If we adhere to the exalted principles of our Order and of Him whom we profess to follow as our leader, guide and example, we will surely justify our existence, and be a power for good wherever our influence is exerted.

R. E. Sir J. W. Nash is Grand Commander. R. E. Sir Thos. Montgomery, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### MONTANA—1893.

The Sixth Annual was held in the city of Helena, October. Present, E. D. Aikin, R. E. Grand Commander; E. Sir Cornelius Hedges, Grand Recorder, and the Representatives of seven Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address covers but five pages, but is an elegant paper in all respects. We copy his opening as being above the average, in sentiment, at least :

**SIR KNIGHTS**—We meet at the Sixth Annual Conclave under rather depressing circumstances. Owing to the financial stringency, precipitated, as some of us fancy, by the over-exertions of those who sought to discredit the silver dollar, work has stopped and wages as well. Those who usually have money find it locked up in suspended banks, and the money in our treasuries has in many cases shared the same fate, so that the available cash is perilously close to the due point. However annoying and inconvenient these circumstances may be, they are as nothing compared with the great blessings of health and the thousand privileges we enjoy from living in the most enlightened land—in this most enlightened age. Indeed, as we look around us and carefully enquire what has been lost, it would be hard to answer. Our mines, lands, herds, flocks, our houses and places of business, all remain as before, and we are brought to the conclusion that nothing is the matter but a temporary lack of confidence, occasioning a paralysis of business. Fraters, it is part of our business to restore and maintain that mutual confidence on which society, government and progress rest as their foundation. We profess to be the followers of a risen Savior. Let us rise to the mountain tops of our privileges and do good unto all men as we have an opportunity, especially to the household of faith. About there being plenty of opportunity there can be no doubt. These crowd around us and we stumble over them at every step. As we pray for daily bread, let us remember that our spirits need it as much as our bodies, and let us see that others have it. As we

ask to have our debts forgiven, let us reflect on what terms we are to ask it, and think of the consideration due our debtors. When we ask not to be led into temptation and for deliverance from evil, let us not rush blindly and headstrong into temptation and evil.

Fraters, if we were honest in our professions and have been faithful to our vows, we have been waging incessant warfare against the lying vanities of the world; we have been wielding our swords in defense of maiden innocence, neither doing or thinking evil—no, or listening to it. How many destitute widows and helpless orphans have we relieved? Have we thought of them or looked for them? As sworn defenders of the Christian religion, what have we said or done that the world may have known us such? How have we acquitted ourselves in the eyes of the great Captain of our salvation, who sees where men cannot see and judges not as men judge? Do we think to lay aside our vows with our uniforms and to draw our swords only while practicing our ritual? If so, when we approach the door of the spiritual asylum we need not expect to hear the welcome plaudit: "Well done, good and faithful servants or soldiers of the cross, enter thou into the joy of the Lord."

His labors were extremely light, hence the brevity of his report. Proceedings local. Order in a healthy state, financially and otherwise. Total membership 334, a net gain of 2. Most of the pamphlet, seventy-nine pages, is taken up with an admirable report on Correspondence, the work of our good brother Hedges, who is still bent on the slaughter of the innocent (?) Turks who "hold the fort" at Jerusalem. He starts out on this line, in his opening, which we copy, and keeps it up all the way through:

Encouraged by the kind reception generally accorded our report of last year we will again attempt a brief review of the many attractive volumes that have since come to us from correspondents in different stations of the Lord's vineyard superintending the vintage. The settlement of many of the subsidiary issues by the adoption of a standard ritual by the Graud Encampment seems to have brought the opportunity to our gallant Knights to devote their emancipated energies "to deeds of more exalted usefulness," but whether or not they will do it remains to be seen. We have modestly suggested as a worthy object *Liberanda est Palestina*, "Palestine ought to be emancipated." Call it a hobby or chimera if you will, but let him who has something better to propose do so.

The report is almost entirely original matter, and must have caused our friend a good deal of hard work in its preparation, and is good from start to finish.

Here is a bit of heterodoxy which we find under California:

At the risk of being called a poor Presbyterian, we must confess that our creed broadens as we grow older, and we believe there are good Christians in every denomination, even among Mormans and Mahommedans; yes! among pagans or even infidels. He who looks upon the heart and men's motives will judge very differently from human judgments. If we heed the admonition, "Let him among you who is without guilt throw the first stone," there will not be much stone-throwing, and it will be much nearer a Christian world than it has ever yet been.

There is nothing inconsistent with good Presbyterianism in his proposition, as the lightning of "election" may strike an infidel, Mahommedan or a Mormon.

His review of Mississippi for 1893 is pleasant and full. Here is what he says of this committee:

In the correspondence corner of the thin-chested volume Sir DeLap plays a lone hand with a free and easy pen, and asks no backing and no consideration on account of sickness or good looks. He does not seem to grow in respect for dress

parade devotion. Perhaps he has forgot that devout general who had his army baptized by platoons by a priest who had the alternative to do that or be shot. Some think there is virtue in forms and clothes and words. Possibly a grain of wheat may be included in the chaff. Our Frater seems to be lacking in his appreciation of the importance of the Grand Encampment, which he irrelevantly calls the Grand Excrescence. For ourselves, we feel thankful that it has settled the rituals and uniform. We hope now that the Knights will turn their attention to something a size larger, such as a permanent camp in the heart of the continent and nearer heaven than most of them dwell, or if they want a subject that will make the face of the earth and heaven smile, let them take up the deliverance of Palestine.

We should like to provide every one with a place to his taste, and if you really feel strong enough to be quartermaster, Sir George, you shall have it. The only place we speak for is that of private, which we have a notion to reserve for ourselves. England will not always be able to maintain a nuisance on the most sacred spots on earth. In fact we will do England the justice to believe it is not love of the Turk but fear of Russia that dictates her policy. The report that we have hardly noticed, must be read to be appreciated. It is lively always and occasionally becomes lurid.

We accept the offer of quartermaster. We feel sorry, however, for Bro. Cornelius, as he will feel lonesome in his position as private, as most of the crusading host will consist of general officers. There is a probability, also, that the brunt of the fighting will fall on the rank and file, and he may get hurt.

He does England much more than justice in letting her down so easily. Her grasping ambition, that stops at no law of right, human or divine, has more to do with the matter than the fear of the "Russian Bear." We would like to talk with and appropriate more from Bro. C., but the space allotted to Montana is more than full.

Sir Albert L. Babcock is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### NEW JERSEY—1893.

The Thirty-fifth Annual was held in the city of Trenton, May 9th. Sir Wm. Muchmore, Grand Commander; Sir Chas. Bechtel, Grand Recorder. Fifteen Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The Grand Commander's address is quite short, but is "business" from start to finish. He congratulates his command on the gratifying increase in membership, made up largely of young men who will be zealous and energetic in building up the institution.

He remarks with all the gravity imaginable, that "the usual number of requests have been made for permission to *invade* sister jurisdictions and the same has been granted." Recognizing, no doubt, the childish absurdity of the whole thing, he adds: "The use of this word *invade*, however, is a misnomer, and might be relegated to the past, for as Sir Knights we have no hostile intentions against any sister jurisdiction." "Scarcely," and if we had we would hardly send over and ask them to let us *invade* them! On the contrary, we would lay low and keep mum, *surprise* them as it were, with great slaughter on both sides. He suggests "That in this jurisdiction its use be discontinued." Sensible.



He recommends that all the Subordinates observe Ascension Day, which is all right if they do not make a parade of their worship. The Asylum and in citizens dress, is the best, but if you *must* march to church, go in plain dress and render God service instead of making yourself conspicuous.

The proceedings were very short and entirely local.

Sir Chas. Bechtel is the author of the Correspondence report, in which the transactions of 36 Grand Bodies receive attention, Mississippi for 1892 receiving less than a page. Referring to our report, he says: "The 'conclusion' shows that Sir DeLap means well, the assertion of some correspondents to the contrary, notwithstanding." Thanks, awfully!

Sir Warren Dobbs is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Chas. Bechtel, Grand Recorder.

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#### NORTH DAKOTA—1893.

The Fourth Annual was held in the city of Jamestown, June 9th. Present, Sir Robt. E. Wallace, Grand Commander; Sir Frank J. Thompson, Grand Recorder and the representatives of seven Subordinate Commanderies, four chartered and three U. D.

The address is a business document, showing that the R. E. performed his duty in a conscientious and painstaking manner. He issued no buncombe dispensations and made no decisions. He refused a dispensation to act as escort to the G. A. R. on Decoration Day, which was eminently wise and proper.

Proceedings local. Order in good shape. Treasury balance \$689.00.

Grand Recorder F. J. Thompson is the author of a Correspondence report covering less than three pages, and which is largely explanatory of the fact that it is no larger, and the balance to a synopsis of the salient performances of the G. E. at Denver in reference to shoulder straps, insignia and sich. "Every one to his taste," as the old lady feelingly remarked when she kissed her cow in preference to her husband.

Sir Roswell W. Knowlton is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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#### NEW YORK—1893.

The Eightieth Annual was held in the city of Buffalo, September 12th. Present, Sir Edward L. Gaul, Grand Commander; Sir Robert Macoy, Grand Recorder, all the Grand Officers and Representatives of fifty-six Subordinate Commanderies. A welcome address from the Mayor, and another from the local Commandery, with eloquent responses from the R. E. Grand Commander, preceded the opening.

The address is an exceptionally good one, in which his administration is epitomized, in clear and eloquent terms. Appropriate mention is made of the Knightly dead, and due respect paid to their memory and worth. One new Commandery

was constituted. His visitations were quite extensive. His dispensations were all for legitimate purposes.

We clip all of his decisions. They are not all in accordance with our ideas of the eternal fitness of things, but as they seem to suit our brethren up there, at least a majority of them, (we find in the minutes a minority report from the law committee, disapproving decisions one, two and three, and a majority report from same committee, approving the entire batch, the latter being adopted), we are not inclined to kick.

No. 1.

*Question*—The following Regulation was adopted at the Annual Conclave in 1891:

"Unaffiliation or suspension for non-payment of dues by Lodge or Chapter shall deprive a Sir Knight of his membership in the Commandery until such unaffiliation or suspension shall cease, or his dues paid."

*Answer*—In the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment, Section 17, Title XXIII., page 45, read as follows:

"Striking from the roll is ordinarily not expulsion or suspension, but results in non-affiliation merely, and if striking from the roll under the law of the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of the jurisdiction, merely deprives the person of membership in his Lodge or Chapter, it has no effect upon the general standing of the Sir Knight or his membership in the Commandery."

In view of the above, until a change is made in the organic law by the Grand Encampment, I think the resolution on this subject adopted by the Grand Commandery of this State in 1891 is null and void.

No. 2.

*Question*—I have received an official communication from a Chapter, R. A. M. (seal attached), notifying me that seven members of my Commandery in good standing are suspended R. A. M.'s, the dates of their suspensions extending from 1876 to 1890; have now, for the first time, been notified of this action. Please advise me how to act in this matter.

*Answer*—A Templar's first duty is to the Grand Encampment (Sec. 17, G. E. Statutes, as in No. 1, quoted), and further Sec. 2, Title XLI., p. 55, G. E. Statutes reads as follows: "By merely becoming non-affiliate in Lodge or Chapter a Templar does not lose his standing in the Commandery."

As striking from the roll in the Lodge or suspension for non-payment of dues in the Chapter only results in non-affiliation, I cannot see how the standing of the Sir Knights in your Commandery can be affected until the law of the Supreme Grand Body is changed. I would add that the legislation on this subject effected at Denver in 1892, was all in favor of existing laws.

No. 3.

*Question*—On or about the 1st of January, 1892, our Commandery was notified by Blue Lodges and Chapters, to which certain members of the Commandery were attached, that they were delinquent in dues and had been suspended or dropped from the rolls for arrearages, and requested the Commandery to take some action in the matter. Believing that we were required by law and usage to suspend such members from our body, we caused some twenty members to be dropped from the roll of membership. We now find that our action, according to decision recently made by you, was illegal, and I am instructed by our Commandery to request you to give the following information: What action must

be taken by the Commandery to restore said members to their rights in the Commandery?

Are said Sir Knights amenable for dues for the time of so-called suspension, or must we deduct a proportional amount for the period they were supposed to be unaffiliated?

*Answer*—In reply to letter referring to Sir Knights stricken from your roll January 1, 1892, I would suggest the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, On or about January 1, 1892, under a misapprehension of the law in the matter, the following Sir Knights of this Commandery were improperly stricken from the roll at the request of Lodge and Chapter, they being in arrears for dues in those bodies, namely (here insert names); and

WHEREAS, Under a recent decision of the Grand Commander such action was uncalled for and illegal under the Rules and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States; now, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Sir Knights above named are hereby fully restored to all their rights and privileges as members in this Commandery, and are in as good standing, if their dues were paid to date of being dropped from the roll, as if this action had never been taken.

*Resolved*, That the dues of the Sir Knights above named are hereby donated for and during the period that they were deprived of their membership by the erroneous action of this Commandery.

#### No. 4.

*Question*—Can I issue a summons for a regular meeting?

*Answer*—Yes; You can summon for a regular or special Conclave, but in case of special, the business should be stated, as only that can be transacted. At a regular, any business may be brought up.

#### No. 5.

*Question*—When a petition has been referred to a committee, how long a time may they hold same before reporting, either favorable or unfavorable? Also, is it proper for a Sir Knight to call for a report on a petition, when the committee withholds report for, say, two to four months?

*Answer*—Four weeks is the usual time for a committee to report, but in case of unreasonable delay any Sir Knight may call for a report, and if necessary demand the appointment of a new committee.

#### No. 6.

*Question*—In the event of an objection being made to a candidate who has been elected to receive the Orders of Knighthood, is it essential for the objector to be present at a conclave of the Commandery? If not, can an objection be filed with the Commander, to remain in force for an unlimited period? Will you also kindly state how we are to designate the territory over which we have jurisdiction, by an air line or by the most convenient mode of conveyance?

*Answer*—An objection to an elected candidate being equivalent to a rejection by ballot unless withdrawn, six months must elapse before he can be balloted for again. See Sec. 71, Statutes G. C.

A little ripple of unpleasantness occurred between the Grand Commander and the Grand Commander of Indiana, caused by the latter sending a commission as Grand Representative to the appointee *direct* without consulting Grand Commander Gaul, ignoring him entirely in fact. The correspondence is pretty spicy, and as the Indiana chieftain proved contumacious, the Grand Commander

recalled the commission of the Representative of New York, near Indiana, and declared, "That the exchange of Grand Representatives between the Grand Commanderies respectively of New York and Indiana, on the part of New York, is hereby suspended." This action was also approved.

The Correspondence is again the finished work of our good brother, Jesse B. Anthony, who passes upon the transactions of thirty-nine Templar Grand Bodies in his usual pleasant and interesting style. Under California he has the following :

Sir Knight Swain, of Wisconsin, having made a very good point in referring to the action of the "glorious climate of California," which crops up occasionally in these reviews, the chairman illustrates *his* caution by the recital of the following. Great country—great story :

"He even seems to think that the climate has affected us as well as Sir Caswell, because we have told a few facts in our correspondence concerning this State. The truth is, we dare not tell the whole truth. We are like the man who was rejected by the deacons of the church for the reason that he was not truthful, who replied that he was over-cautious in that respect, and demanded an instance of his lack of truth. They replied, 'The story you told of your brother being cut across the abdomen in the hay field, so that his bowels came out, and your father caught and killed a ewe and placed her entrails in your brother, in place of his own, sewed up the wound, and he got well.'

"'Why, said he, 'that very incident illustrates my caution in regard to telling the truth. I did not tell the whole truth in that case. The fact is, my father put him in the barn and fed him on hay during the winter, and he had a lamb in the spring.'

"So we have to be cautious to keep ourselves within credible limits when speaking of this 'glorious climate.'"

Swain ought to pass out now. Lippitt has him foul.

His review of Mississippi for 1893 is fraternal. He says, referring to G. C. Bodenhamer's address :

"It seems for the proper maintenance of this Grand Body—with so small a constituency—that it would be wise, (as suggested) to increase the fee paid the Grand Commandery for those who are Knighted. This would furnish the needed addition to the annual revenue, and would not be in any degree detrimental to the Subordinates. We also are of the opinion that the fees for conferring the Orders of Knighthood should be fixed at a sum in accordance with the status of the Order, and certainly to the extent that none but the best material should be received.

The Grand Commander wisely suggested that the management of the contemplated Masonic Home should be under the control of the Grand Lodge, and that the other Grand Bodies should give their financial support to the enterprise. The Grand Body concurred in this view, and took action accordingly.

Does our brother measure the Templar worth of postulants by the size of their bank account? It is not often the case that the best people are able to pay fancy prices for these things, in this neck of the woods. Noticing the report of the committee he says :

We do not agree that a Commandery should have the right to ballot upon a petition for Orders without any delay. Undoubtedly a Commandery is the best judge of its material, but for the best interest of those who compose its membership, a sufficient time should elapse whereby the members can have knowledge of any new application. It is not every Royal Arch Mason who should receive the honor of Knighthood.

To this we beg to reply that no Royal Arch Mason who is unworthy of the honors of Knighthood is fit to remain in the Chapter and should be kicked out. The same rule applies all along the line from E. A. to M. M. up, and *down* the balance of the scale. We think the usual expression when referring to the Chapter, Council and Commanderies, "The *higher* degrees," a misnomer, as we believe Bro. A. does also. Referring to the Ritual he adds:

We consider our frater will find he is mistaken regarding the new Ritual. While we have not seen it exemplified, yet we have that confidence in the ability of the committee, and the further fact of the unanimity evinced in its adoption, that we hazard the assertion that *it will be universally accepted*.

"Wait till the clouds roll by," and we shall see. The mental caliber of the new committee is no greater than that of the old one and there are lots of Templars in the country, many of whom will imagine that there is a kick coming to them and they will not hesitate to use it.

Sir John H. Bonnington is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### NORTH CAROLINA—1893.

The Thirteenth Annual was held in the city of Tarboro, May 11th. James Southgate, R. E. Grand Commander, presiding; Sir Horace H. Munson, Grand Recorder. Eight Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is short and local in its references. He says he is "satisfied that considerable advancement has been made all along the line, and that a new impetus has been given to our order." His dispensations were all right. Decisions, ditto. Dispensations for two new Commanderies were issued. Proceedings local.

It seems they had a banquet, as the following "Note" appears at the end of the minutes:

NOTE—The Banquet. How shall we describe the richness of the feast? Scattered here and there were many tables that groaned with the delicacies of the season (and before morning we groaned also.) The sea had been called on to furnish its quota for tickling the palate. The land had been laid under contribution to furnish its many excellencies, and the skill of woman called into exercise to crown the festal board. No music filled the air with sweet strains but the strain upon the girth warned us that the inner man rebelled against further admission within its domain. The *Southgate* opened and shut with increasing rapidity, but we paid little attention to its unwonted activity. *Cotten* crept up several points and dropped again with alarming velocity. The *Storm* at night was fearful, but with our *Lampman* to light the way and *Chase* away its gloom we gained the friendly shelter of our hotel and smoked our *Cobb* pipe in peace. Selah!

The Correspondence is by Bro. Blount. It is very short, for reasons stated in his opening, which we clip:

*To the Grand Commandery of North Carolina:*

The sessions of the Grand Commandery fall just at a time this correspondent cannot be present, and for some weeks before this time is so much engrossed in the affairs pertaining to his professional employment that he finds it impossible

to give to the review of the proceedings of the other Grand Bodies that care and attention which their merits and interests of the Craft demands of its correspondent. He has tried for two years next before this to shift the responsibility to others who have more leisure and higher qualifications by earnestly asking that he be excused. Last year he transferred quite a number of the proceedings to Sir Stubbs and begged and implored him to come to the rescue and not allow the report to fail; but for some unaccountable reason no response (as to a report from him) was vouchsafed, and our appendix was (dis)graced with a meager mention of a few Grand Bodies more on the nature of rising to a personal privilege than a formal report on correspondence. This time your correspondent can do little else.

It is certainly a high privilege and affords keenest enjoyment, to read and consider the acts and doings of our fraters all over the land and to feel the pulsings of a common sentiment and the ennobling influence of fraternal compact for a common cause, to know that on the far off slopes of the Pacific, in the clear cold regions of the North, in the vine-clad bowers of the sunny South of our own union of States, as well as in the Dominion of Canada, we speak the same language of love to our fellow-men and have the same devotion to Him who became sin for us and offered up His life on the cross to pay the debt we owe, "and made us Kings and Priests unto God our Father," and he is loathe to surrender the post on that account, but duty to the Craft impels imperatively a declination of the position for another term at least, and to ask that it be not said as I find it said in many of the proceedings, "No Report on Fraternal Relations."

We also clip his review of some one of our reports—we do not know which, and he does not say—with the remark that the preacher ought to be ashamed of himself for not helping him out.

Business was of purely local interest. In the report on correspondence all that we said about Mississippi way back yonder, so far as we can't say we did or did not, but 'spose we did, I did not keep copy, and may have got names of new Commanderies from Michigan, Missouri or some other Miss., for he ought to know whether we missed it or not, the leaves of manuscript may have been mixed by printer, and I am quite sure the bad spelling and typographical errors for 'course I knows how to spell that wh'ch I have so much of and handle so fondly. All is compensated, however, by his having printed so much of what we had to say, for as newspaper men say, our circulation was increased, yet he tops off the whole by poking fun at our being broken down. "The idea of being broke down," "done for" and "worked to death" writing a twenty-four page report. It wan't that—it was reading *so much* to get the milk out of it—boiling it down to the consistency of a just resume, digesting a mass of sometimes indigestible matter. We tried to get the preacher in by sending him a lot of the pamphlets, but when the time came for his report his came up missing, and the Recorder made note that the rest of the report got lost in the mails. This report (Miss.) ought to have been here before "our last" was reported so that this reply may have been more timely. I don't know what he had to say about us in February, 1893. Well, we can't wait, but then I am out of it, and some one else will have to chase the *will 'o the wisp*.

His closing is so good that we copy it entire:

#### RELIEVED.

In conclusion let us say, with love to all and malice towards none, we lay down the quills with a sense of relief, at being relieved of the appointment of Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, who could get no relief from those appointed with him on the committee, though earnestly imploring it. A sense of sadness is mixed with that of relief, for a separation from the association

of co-laborers in the work, and the deprivation of the pleasure of reading the reports will be sorely felt. How often we have felt while reading the reports of California or Illinois, that we were in the presence of the fraters whom we felt we already knew—particularly those whose pictures gave such a realistic sense of their presence. It was indeed a pleasure, and but for the inopportune time of meeting in the midst of Spring Circuit Court, the pleasure would have been retained. July or August, for mountain or seashore, would have been more opportune and suitable to all; for such is the outing season of those who are betied with labors and duties in the first five or six months of the year. The opinion of this correspondent on matters in which he has vouchsafed any, have been variously received; for those who have courteously disagreed the highest regard is felt; for those who have approved, most kindly appreciations. May our blessed Lord reveal himself to each by the Spirit and power of the Holy Ghost, and may we all meet in the Great Grand Encampment with our Snpreme Grand Master presiding, welcoming each with the plaudit, "well done."

We regret the loss of our Bro. in this field and think he ought to have stuck to it. May the benediction of the Master follow him in every walk of life.

Sir Francis M. Moye is Grand Commander; Sir H. H. Munson, Grand Recorder, and Sir John C. Chase is the successor of Bro. Blount.

#### OREGON—1893.

The Twenty-seventh Annual was held in the city of Eugene, October 12. There were present, R. E. S. M. Yoran, Grand Commander; E., Sir J. F. Robinson, Grand Recorder, and the Representatives of four subordinate and Representatives of quite a number of Grand Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is short, and is devoted to matters of local interest only. He issued two dispensations for new Commanderies. He has this to say anent Grand Recorder and Correspondent:

#### OFFICIAL COMPENSATION.

The subject of records causes me to suggest for your consideration the propriety of providing a small annual salary to be paid our Grand Recorder for the service required of him. The duties imposed have been discharged without fee or reward, except the pleasure of knowing that his fraters were satisfied with the results of his care. The chairman of your Committee on Foreign Correspondence is also deserving of similar consideration. I have carefully read most of the annual reports of sister Jurisdictions, and find the work we have submitted to them receives many compliments for beauty of arrangement of all official matter, and strength of logic in its review of other proceedings and correspondence. This is, no doubt, pleasing to Recorder, reviewer and printer; but I desire to do more in acknowledgement of the courtesy and painstaking care of these officers in the discharge of their duties, and shall feel better to know that the word of approval has been spoken by those for whom they have labored.

In all of which we concur, and so did the Grand Body, as they appropriated \$50 to each per annum.

The Order is in good condition, financially and otherwise. Proceedings devoid of general interest. The Correspondence is by Bro. J. M. Hodson (now Grand Commander); covers a large part of the pamphlet; digests the transactions of most of the Templar family, the Mississippi ranch included, and is well worth the \$50 paid for it. He opens as follows:

*To the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of Oregon:*

From throughout the Templar world comes the challenge: Watchman, what of the night? What the progress of the chivalrous Knights of the Temple? How stands the record of the year with the Valiant and Magnanimous Orders?

From the recorded proceedings of the various Grand Conclaves and the reports of committees, ably and industriously endeavoring to answer the same questions, we gather up and submit for your courteous consideration our synopsis of the results, hopefully trusting that the glad response, "All is well," may show the record to have been such as the most enthusiastic would approve.

His review of Mississippi is pleasant and kind. We copy his remarks anent our report and its author, for the purpose of denying that we are at all sensitive, in the direction referred to. "Lay on Macduff! and damned be he who first cries—hold! enough!"

Sir George DeLap again presents the report on Correspondence—trim, vigorous and interesting. We almost regret that we, in common with so many other knights of the quill, have so pointedly expressed the opinion that he was a dyspeptic old crank, as we note all along this report that he is sensitive, where we thought him blunt and thick-skinned, and notwithstanding his peculiar style of expression, we are sure that underneath there glows a warm heart and a kindly interest, in the great fraternity of which he has so long been a valued member.

Oregon comes in for courteous review. The word "chagrin" is a misnomer sure enough, and is strictly chargeable to the intelligent compositor who transformed "charges" into "chagrin," much to the chagrin of the proof-reader who failed to catch it. "Alle same," as your typo makes the name of our honored Grand Commander to appear to be "Govan," instead of Yoran, as it should be. Let's play quits, and if you either did not say "fools," or if you even now don't mean it, or will take it back, we'll forgive you even as we hope to be forgiven, and we'll never store it up against you "any more next time."

Our good frater is still opposed to what he terms "armed piety: *i. e.*, Commanderies attending church in full uniform. We don't have that kind in Oregon. We leave the swords in the asylum and merely wear the remainder of the regalia, simply as a mark to distinguish us as an organization from the other hearers. We have no kind of doubt that some times unworthy thoughts crowd the minds of many, and desires not altogether pure may stimulate the breasts of the "mailed warriors" who attend with the desire to display fine feathers, yet probably no more so than in an equal number of persons attending at other times and for other purposes. Now, honor bright, didn't you ever go to church, and even within reach of the droppings of the sanctuary, think unworthy thoughts and cultivate desires that would not stand the crystal test of perfect purity? Answer truthfully in the negative if you can. Then why make such ado because Commanderies see fit to give notice of their existence, and to publicly recognize Christianity in uniform?

We don't object to the "Devotional Services," but simply to the uniform. The former are right and proper, and should be continued, but, personally, we would be glad to see them divested of the uniform feature.

We would be glad say more to Bro. Hodson, but Oregon's space is filled.

R.: E.: J. M. Hodson is Grand Commander; E.: Sir J. F. Robinson, Grand Recorder; R.: E.: Grand Commander is also Correspondent.

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PENNSYLVANIA—1893.

The Fortieth Annual was held in the city of Wilksbarre, May 23. Present,



R.: E.: Sir Jas. H. Coddington, Grand Commander, E.: Sir Charles E. Meyer, Grand Recorder, and the Representatives of sixty-nine Subordinate Commanderies. The Grand Commander's address is comparatively short but is an excellent paper. We clip the following as indicative of the condition of the Order in the Keystone State:

The year has been one of abundant activity and prosperity, and this Grand Commandery still remains in the same proud pre-eminence which it before attained. The reports of our Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer will present to you in detail the facts which assures our success in numbers and in financial condition, and I am specially pleased to record the fact that the term now closing has witnessed no violations of the law calling for any interference, censure or discipline.

He constituted four new Commanderies during the year. He has this to say about the matter of Grand Representatives:

But the recent departure of our Grand Lodge from the custom may reasonably awaken our doubts, and suggest that we observe the results and be guided thereby. And for every useful purpose, we always have, and without any appointment, an efficient Representative, near every Grand Commandery of our Federal Union—I mean the Most Eminent Grand Master of our Grand Encampment.

From his decisions we cull these:

Also decided (confirming Division Commander Owsley), that charters of Commanderies should not be framed and hung permanently in Asylums. The installation charge to an Eminent Commander places the charter in his keeping, and the custody should be actual and not constructive, the variations from this rule being well defined by law.

Two applications for speedy ballot disclosed the fact that the proposed beneficiaries had not yet received all the Chapter degrees. I think it should be understood that in all such cases an actual petition must be in existence as a foundation for jurisdiction and action, and, of course, the Royal Arch Exaltation must precede such petition. Any other rule is derogatory to a proper dignity of procedure.

We are inclined to think that the better and safer way is to have the charter framed and hung in the Asylum. Regarding the last decision, we can only say that we live in an age of "rapid transit."

The Grand Body approved all the deliverances of the R.: E.: Proceedings local. Order in excellent shape, financially and otherwise. Total membership, 9628.

Our good Bro. Meyer is the author of an admirable report on Correspondence, covering 60 pages and digesting the doings of forty Templar families—Mississippi among them. He opens as follows:

We are daily reminded by little instances of the passage of time, but it is the more forcibly impressed upon the one who writes the report on correspondence for either the Grand Lodge, Chapters, Councils and Commanderies.

It was with considerable relief when the pen was put aside a year ago, and the signature appended and the copy handed to the printer, and the result of criticism awaited. And now a year has passed, we open the proceedings as received, scan closely for the items of interest, the eye resting for the instant on the name recorded as dead of those prominent in the Order of the Temple, the tear of sympathy and friendship swells up in the eye, and memory recalls

quickly the times we met, never here to meet again, and human-like we pass on, leaving the dead, and we speak of the living.

We have had our sorrows as well as others, we have our joys as they have, and we both are living the same life, with the same ultimate object in view—the practice of Freemasonry and the exemplification of Christian Knighthood.

There is one thing we know, we have grown older than when we wrote our first report twenty-five years ago, and our views have changed somewhat, but we still have the same love and veneration for Freemasonry and the Order of the Temple.

His review of Mississippi, for 1893, is pleasant and brotherly. He refers to Bro. Power as the “venerable” Grand Recorder. If Bro. Meyer would follow Bro. Power around one year and see the amount of hard work he does, he would believe him to be younger than he really is. Of this correspondent he remarks:

The report on correspondence comes again from E. Sir E. G. DeLap. We had our say last year on what we considered—out of the way, it might be called—of Sir DeLap's report. We have since learned the cause. It is said a fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind, and as we know now that his report was written while suffering from rheumatism of the worst kind, we sympathize with him deeply—yes, our sympathy is touching with considerable feeling in it, for we are a fellow-sufferer, but withal have a kind feeling for every one. We have been looking at things in different lights. We have the same end in view in penning these reports—the best for the order of the Temple. Bro. DeLap, our sympathies, our love, is with you and for you, and if we have said what we should not have said, we take it all back and trust that some day we may meet, if not here, then over there, where the light of Eternity shines.

While thanking our brother, sincerely, for his sympathy, we beg to say that we are not troubled with rheumatism—havn't been for years. Our ailments are of another sort—dyspeptic, which are worse. However, they do not inspire any of the crankiness of our reports. We are just built that way and can't help it. We tully and heartily reciprocate our brother's sympathy and love, and also take back all that was seemingly unkind in our former deliverances. May God bless Bro. Charles and the Templars of Pennsylvania always.

Sir Chas. C. Baer is R. E. Grand Commander; M. H. Smith, Grand Recorder; L. S. Smith, Correspondent. (What is the matter with Bro. Meyer?)

#### SOUTH DAKOTA—1893.

The Tenth Annual was held in Huron, June 19. Present, Sir Geo. W. Burnside, R. E. Commander; Sir Bruce M. Rowley, Grand Recorder, and representatives of six Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is short and strictly business. His dispensations were for legitimate purposes. No decisions called for. Proceedings local. Two new Commanderies. Order in good condition. Total membership, 660.

We also find the following in the minutes:

Sir Knight W. D. Stiles, Committee on Correspondence, submitted his report; the finances being limited, he recommended that the report be not printed with the proceedings.

On motion, the report and recommendations of the committee were adopted.

What did he write it for if it was to be buried and he act as sexton?

Sir Geo. H. Rathman is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir W. H. Holt, Grand Recorder. No Correspondence Committee appointed.

### TENNESSEE—1893.

The Thirty-first Annual was held in the city of Memphis, May 9th. Present, Sir Thomas O. Morris, R. E. Grand Commander, presiding; R. E. Sir Geo. C. Connor, Grand Recorder. Fourteen Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The Grand Commander's address is very short, but is an elegant paper. We clip his opening :

We are again assembled, after a lapse of many years, in this beautiful city of our beloved Southland. Though these many years have been added to her crown, yet she has not become hoary with age, but like old wine has renewed her youth with each returning year. She is beautiful to look upon, as she nestles on the bluff of that grand old river, the mighty Mississippi. Celebrated in commercial circles for her push, energy and thrift, yet above the sordid desire for wealth, she shines as a star of first magnitude among her neighbors for that whole-souled hospitality, brotherly love and kindly greeting characteristic of her Masonic fraternity, and which may well be emulated by other cities. I predict a generous welcome that I know from former experience will befall you, while sojourning here during this the Thirty-first Annual Convocation of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee. May each visitor be filled with fraternal feeling and emulation as to who shall do the most for the advancement of those noble tenets and teachings of this grand Order—Christian Knighthood, built upon the Christian religion, and the faith that in the grand and glorious resurrection beyond this vale of tears, trials, and tribulations, there is a home for the true Knight and Christian soldier of the Cross where the weary may be at rest—a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. May every act of each Sir Knight here present be but the laying of the stones that shall build for him that spiritual temple into which we may enter as a House of Rest. God grant that not one shall be left out at the last roll-call.

A number of Companions had removed from the jurisdiction of a Virginia Commandery, in which they had been elected, into the jurisdiction of a Tennessee Commandery. He ruled that they were proper material for the latter to work on, but that the consent of the Virginia Commandery must be first obtained, although their election there had lapsed on account of delay. We can't see it. If the Virginia Commandery had rejected them, his ruling would be all right, but as it had elected them and six months had elapsed without their receiving the Orders, they were in precisely the same fix in regard to this matter as though they had never applied. In other words, the election of a candidate does not give the electing body perpetual jurisdiction over him.

We also clip the following, which explains itself :

### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

'Tis an old chestnut, some may say, but, at the risk of awakening some of the old fossils, let us ring the bell softly, for fear that they may forget the vow so earnestly taken that they would defend and protect the widow and orphan wherever dispersed. How soon are we forgot when we are laid away! How much

sooner does the widow and orphan of our beloved Frater pass out of our memory! They are too proud to beg, and yet all around us they are suffering for that protection and care promised. Within two miles of the Capitol of our State stands a monument to the energy and industry of two of our Fraters, M. B. Toney, President, and W. H. Bumpas, Secretary. Without hope of fee or reward they have toiled on until, on the hill overlooking the beautiful City of Rocks, stands a Masonic Widows and Orphans Home, which cost about thirty thousand dollars, and on which there is yet due and unpaid about two thousand six hundred dollars. They have subscribed toward this nearly two thousand; they hope to raise and collect this balance by July 4, 1893, and dedicate it, if out of debt, although the rooms are not all finished. They have about thirty inmates, consisting of widows and children, and have applications for nearly fifty more, which they are unable to receive, as it is almost impossible now to support, by voluntary subscriptions, those who are already there.

Fraters, is not this a crying shame? Should we not open our ears to the cry of distress, and assist them to the best of our ability? God grant that the eyes and purses of our noble Order all over grand old Tennessee may be opened, that there may be created a fund sufficient to feed and clothe the helpless widows and orphans, and thus add a garland to our crown of rejoicing in heaven. So mote it be, is my humble prayer.

Proceedings local. Order in good shape. \$38.00 in the Treasury.

The Great and Only Connor is the author of the most readable report on Correspondence in the batch, which he opens in the following strain:

*Fraters of Tennessee:*

In presenting this my sixth Report on Correspondence I ask permission to indulge a few remarks as to the utility of such Reports.

In the Grand Lodge of this State the Committee on Accounts last January, introduced a recommendation that the Report on Correspondence be abolished in Grand Lodge. After a full discussion, the recommendation was rejected by a rising vote of 258 against 45. Grand Lodge thus decided that the Report was of sufficient value to continue its appearance in the future. That action of the Craft prompts the remark now about to be made, as the writer of both Reports is the same person.

The Reports which it is our honor to be permitted to make for Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery are written with an eye single to the instruction and edification of my Brethren of Tennessee. If the author is prominent at times the necessity is inevitable. We never publish the kind comments of our Brethren of the Guilds, nor do we waste white paper in telling what Correspondents say of our Grand Commanders or of this Jurisdiction. We have no personal wars to wage, no enemies to censure, no friends to flatter at the expense of truth and the funds of this Grand Commandery.

The controlling motive of this Correspondent's labors is the advancement of the Order of the Temple in Tennessee, and in the United States. He therefore carefully examines the Proceedings of other Grand Commanderies, and makes such use of their decisions, legislation and practices as will instruct his own people and prevent this Grand Commandery from running upon the rocks and shoals that threaten all legislation. To make these instructions palatable—that is, readable—we call into requisition all that is known to us of law, literature, art and Masonic Knighthood. Experience has taught that the wisest of books are usually the least read. Reading is not the natural tendency of the human mind, and there must be training and inducements to secure the making of an effort which is not inherited.

Newspapers, and most of the magazines, have destroyed the popular taste for sedate reading, if there ever was such a taste prevalent. It is not to condemn but to declare the fact that we indulge this allegation. Those beyond the easy

reach of newspapers and magazines are to a great extent without any desire to read more than their Bibles, and an occasional cheap novel. The writers of Templar reviews will not lose sight of these conditions if they expect to have their papers read and enjoyed. Hence the necessity of not holding the hay too high, or of injecting an over-clouding amount of stilted or solemn composition.

The fables so prevalent in Freemasonry are not altogether missing in the Order of the Temple, and it is a part of our assumed duty to puncture all the idle fancies uninformed Ritual builders and commentators have infused into the popular Masonic belief. In the revising of the Red Cross we discovered from so many sources the absolute lack of familiarity of most of people with the events upon which the Order was founded. Scores of letters did we write to Fraters eminent in the eyes of the Fraternity that need not have been written if the Correspondents had given their attention to informing the Fraters instead of expending money and paper in personal disputes, personal vanities, and personal quibblings about opinions. I thank God that a different motive from that apparent five years ago appears to influence the work of our co-laborers. The volume of dusty platitudes reprinted is wonderfully reduced, and the painful contentions, often vindictive, have almost disappeared; such is confined to a single reviewer now.

Another object of the work of the writer is to define the distinction between Freemasonry, Cryptic Masonry and the Orders that repose in the bosom of the Commandery. Many devoted Brethren carry into Capitular Masonry and into the Order of the Temple the special form of secrecy demanded by the E. A. Degree. These are shocked by printed or written Rituals, and by displays forbidden by the simplicity of the Craft requirements. Such are sincere, tender of conscience and desirous of doing right at all hazards. They have our respect and sympathy. They are entitled to the light which is necessary to make duty plain.

The Grand Commandery puts a copy of its Annual in the hands of every affiliated Templar in Georgia. With Sir Rowland Hall to write the Correspondence the Georgia Templar who is not fully posted in Templar matters is to be pitied. It is true that there are not four hundred Templars in Georgia, and there are over a thousand in Tennessee, but still, would it not be the part of wisdom to copy Georgia's example?

We also copy his entire review of Mississippi for 1892. It is all good reading, though some of his propositions are decidedly heterodox, according to *our* theology. He berates us soundly for having opinions of our own and expressing them, but at the same time gives voice to his own in no stinted measure. He is so pleasant and lovable though, that we never think of complaining at anything he says or does. He may be right and we were wrong and there may be a measure of right in both of us, God knows:

Pity Sir John did not send us this Annual in time for the Report of last year. Had it reached us by April we would have been happy. And what of 1893?

Grand Commander Leigh went to his rest, as we reported last year, and Sir W. A. Bodenhamer succeeded to his duties; The acting Grand Commander made a brief but excellent address. He decided:

1. That Grand Encampment law was operative in Mississippi, and that honorary members can not vote or hold office.
2. That orders must not be conferred unless the fees are paid in advance.

With the following in regard to Grand Encampment Conclaves, this George does not concur with George of Natchez nor with Grand Commander:

"Whilst I am fully in accord with the sentiments of our Knightly Committee on Foreign Correspondence as to the utility and propriety of these magnificent displays, yet so long as the Grand Encampment sees fit to keep them up, it will

be necessary for Mississippi to be represented. To the end, therefore, that Mississippi shall be creditably represented, and enabled to do well her part in the hospitalities of the occasion, and otherwise keep step with her sister jurisdictions, I recommend that this committee be continued."

The R. E. Frater is just as far wrong as is Sir George DeLap, his brilliant Correspondent. Those who attend the Triennials in a proper spirit come away benefitted and happy. The blessings of the Denver Conclave will go with us to the grave. And Sir George must give weight to the almost unanimous refusal to locate the Conclaves permanently at the capital of the Republic. The affable Grand Recorder will fully endorse all the praises that can be showered on the displays, entertainments and hospitalities of Denver. Speed will cry Amen, and Hays will sing the Doxology! Ah, poor Bodenhamer was sick.

Sir Frederic Speed, P.G.C., made a characteristic Report on Jurisprudence. We pluck a blossom here and there with the greatest delight:

"Grand Encampment dodged the issue by virtually deciding that its Constitution was a mass of glittering generalities, meaning nothing, a perfectly harmless and inoffensive document made for ornament and not use, except, of course, when a tyrannical Grand Master requires a blind from behind which to shoot at a Grand Commandery an edict of excommunication, when all the truly loyal may use it to take a shelter from which to hurl hard words at those who do not believe in the infallibility of Masonic Popes. \* \* \* \*

"It would be a good thing for the Grand Encampment to make up its mind what it wants done and then to express it in intelligible English; or better still, for it to eliminate all provisions of its constitution which relate exclusively to the domestic affairs of the Grand Commanderies."

There now, dear Hopkins! Here's a foeman worthy of your steel, a veritable Richard with crushing battle-axe; perhaps a Saladin with keen-whetted scimiter.

We have frequently alluded to what is now quoted verbatim. It answers the question, "Can a Knight join any Commandery he pleases?"

"Just jump right in where you can find any one which will have you. The Jurisdictional fences have long ago been torn down and burnt up in this State. It took us a long time to make up our minds that men should not go around the entire circuit of the Delta to find a Commandery, but we did it at last, after much coaxing, and now all you have to do is to pick out a Commandery which will have you and patronize the Masonic millinery men with liberality, and you will quickly become entitled to dangle a toy sword at your side and to trip yourself up with it in the most approved fashion."

If Sir Frederic will take some of his peculiar salt and sprinkle it on the tails of a few of the timid Jurisdictions still chary of such doctrine, he may be able to add another rhinestone to his crown of Templar rejoicing.

Now we carefully spread a napkin across these rheumatic knees, whet our rounded teeth with an appetizer—name unpronounced—draw this stub-nibbed pen thrice through the chamois, and after a moment's meditation, cry:

Comments young, comments old,  
Comments hot, comments cold;  
Comments tender, comments tough,  
Is it possible to have comments enough?

This by way of unauthorized grace before diving deep into the plump bosom of the rare bird that constitutes the chief dish of the Mississippi banquet, its report on correspondence. Whew! what a flavor of thyme and marjoram, peppers and garlic! Condiments! Yea, verily, and sauces garnished with burs, stinging nettles and green persimons. Aye, and there is cream, and nesslerode, plum pudding without "liquid damnation," and cheese without fragrance or skippers.

Do you ask who is the caterer? No, from ocean to ocean, Penobscot to La Bravo, the name of Sir George DeLap is familiar to all Templars.

What a pity Judge Caswell has laid down the pen! DeLap did not profit by our experience, and so with head tucked and eyes sealed 'dubs him, "Our old friend and Doctor," and actually calls him "poor Doctor" in another place.

Sir George benettles the Grand Commander of Iowa for saying that "as Templars we are not judged by any standard or creed." And behold we humbly ask, "Is not Grand Commander correct? We certainly have no creed as Templars by which we are to be judged. All believe in Jesus, Son of God, Saviour of the world, and there ends the *credo*, "I believe." A Templar is not judged by his *credo*, but by his *actus*. Do not revive the pincers and the iron virgin, dear George, nor the scourge nor the *auto da fe*.

An' thou lovest thy Frates, beloved, drop the use of the impropriety, "Sir Brown," "Sir Speed," "Sir Smith." The term "Sir Knight Brown" is almost as offensive. The writer is dropping all that tom-foolery for "Frater" and "Brother."

After all our admonitions, delivered in dense modesty, see this under Massachusetts:

"Now, is there a man in Massachusetts who for a moment believes that the desire to honor God, or to reverently engage in His worship and service, had the smallest place in the motives that concerned this exhibition of Dress Parade and Uniformed Religion? We think not. Such playing at religion and piety, controlled by 'Grant's Tactics,' is an abomination in the sight of that God who has said emphatically that they that worship Him must do so in *spirit* and in *truth*."

Honor bright, Sir George, How do you know? Have you had a special revelation? Yes, here is one who believes those Frates were just as devotional as if they had gone to church clothed with jeans and groaning with denominational solemnities. This pounding of the plumed peculiarity is all pure prejudice on your part, and is an abomination in the sight of your Frates. Quit that nonsense, dear brother, and allow your brethren to settle with their Father about whether they worship in spirit and in truth. Just twist that crank clean off and fling it into the Mississippi! You will sleep better and your Frates will drop a few less of the *epithets*. And if you are playing the watchman, why not cry "*All's well?*" Don't worry about the fellow's blood who don't hear your dismal howls. It won't be poured out on your be-worried head; I assure you it won't.

This under New Hampshire is keenly expressed:

"We regret that our New England Frates still adhere to the custom of asking and granting permission to 'invade,' etc. Strange that men, otherwise of brilliant intellect, should continue this childish stupid custom."

The childish custom is pretty nearly laughed out of existence.

At last we have reached Tennessee, and we see Sir George readjusting his rheumatic toe! Yes, the agony is over, and the pen goes into a mild solution called "Brotherly Love," which he now uses instead of the acid with which Pennsylvania was scorched. He sweetens the beverage until we actually cry out for a few drops of phosphated acid.

God answered your prayer, dear Frater, and because it was answered we are here this sunny morning to greet you. If you had only met us in Denver our cup would have been full.

We *know* only what we are taught in God's word, and that portion of God's spirit within us, given by Him for our profit, "This pounding of the plumed peculiarity" is *not* all, or any part of it, pure prejudice, nor is there a trace of that article in our opposition to it. Does Bro. George suppose that, having our convictions on this subject, any number of "*epithets*" would induce him to cry "*All's well?*" We would like to inquire, also, where he gets his authority to

absolve us from our brother's blood if we fail to warn him of danger ahead? We may meet our brilliant but erratic friend and brother sometime, when a few moments talk will settle his hash on this subject, and salvation without repentance, a doctrine he seems to hold. But we must quit. God bless our brother, always.

Sir Wm. M. Brooks is R.: E.: Grand Commander; R.: E.: Geo. C. Connor Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### VERMONT—1893.

The Fifty-first Annual was held in Burlington, June 13th. R.: E.: Sir Kit-tredge Haskins, Grand Commander; E.: Sir Warren G. Reynolds, Grand Recorder. Ten Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is an elegant paper. We copy the opening:

*Sir Knights:*

Another year has rolled backward since last we met in Annual Conclave. We can hardly realize, so rapidly has it passed, that we stand twelve months nearer the end of life's pilgrimage. While we have been graciously spared to meet and clasp hands in fraternal concord once again; while our beloved Order, within this jurisdiction, has been blessed with an unusual degree of prosperity and peace, we have often been reminded that "We are born to die." The fraternal chain of this Grand Body has been broken, and many a link in our several Subordinate Commanderies has been severed—beloved Sir Knights, with whom we have kept ward and watch together, have exchanged the cross for the sparkling crown.

"Precious in the sight of Heaven  
Is the scene where Christians die,  
Souls with all their sins forgiven  
To the Courts of Glory fly;  
Every sorrow, every burden,  
Every cross, they lay it down,  
Jesus gives them richest guerdon,  
In His own immortal crown"

He issued General Order No. 9, authorizing all his Subordinates to parade on Memorial Day, and act as escort to the general public on that occasion, and, in explanation, adds the following:

The Order of Knights Templar is a semi-military one, and the rendering of escort duty has been its special function ever since the day when Hugo de Paganis and his eight companions become bound to defend the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem and to protect the Christian Pilgrims who came there to worship at the sacred shrine. I can conceive of no higher or nobler duty to which Templars can be called to perform than that of escorting the great body of our citizens on Memorial Day to the shrine of our nation's dead. The men whose graves we annually bedeck with flowers, gave their lives for their country. And the happiness, the joy and the material prosperity that smiles on all, from the lakes to the gulf and from ocean to ocean, is the fruit of their sacrifice. I am not to be deterred from doing or saying that which I believe to be right, because our action in this regard has provoked ridicule at the hand of some of our Templar correspondents who ought and do know better. In the doing of this thing, we do not believe we are "making fools" of ourselves, or that we are "prostituting the Order to a level with a ward caucus," as has been discourteously charged. Nor do we do it for the purpose of "cutting a swell on Memorial Day," or "to keep



alive the memories and animosities of the war," as has also been charged against us. No, such is not our desire or thought, even. But we would, however, have the young men and women of this land bear in continual remembrance the important principles involved in that great struggle of the past, and for the establishment and permanent settlement of which, such costly sacrifices were made. Dear Frates, don't get alarmed, neither hastily misjudge us or our motives. You of the sunny South were in error once, but we freely forgave you your trespasses. You cannot now stir us into rage and fury, for we love you too well to permit that. Forgetting the past, let us do whatever we can to promote the best interests of Templarism and the weal of our own loved land.

Let us live in fond anticipation that the day is near when—

"That some bird of peace from the sunny South  
Will build its nest in our critic's mouth, and  
Cease his awful roar."

We pass! Ephraim seems to be "joined to idols," and we will let him alone. Our Vermont brethren think they are right, we that they are wrong. Both sides are entitled to their own opinions. The South also has a Memorial Day, and this committee would condemn its observance by Templars, as such, in as unmeasured terms as it does the custom north of 36-30. Our objection to it is, that it is not a Masonic or Templar occasion, and Bro. Kittredge and the balance of Vermont know perfectly well that it is not. They also know, equally well, that patriotism or veneration for the dead has nothing at all to do with the wish to parade on these occasions. We are sorry the brethren insist on demonstrating their "*loyalty*" and patriotism in this way, but as they do, we *will* be obliged to subside. He is also an enthusiast on the subject of Devotional Offices, or the observance of Templar Days by attending church, which he has a right to do.

Proceedings local; finances healthy; Order prosperous. Total membership, 1281—a gain of sixty-nine.

The Correspondence is the work of Bro. M. O. Perkins, and considers the doings of thirty-nine Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1892 getting Hail Columbia, at least this writer does. After quoting from Bro. Bodenhamer's address, which he styles able and interesting, the celebrated Law Report, etc., he has this to say of us:

The Report on Correspondence is submitted by R. E. Sir E. G. DeLap, Past Grand Commander, whose review of nearly all the Grand Templar Bodies of the country is "rich, rare and racy," when he does not lower himself to the level of a carping critic, or indulge in uncalled for personalities. We regret he feels called upon to indulge in both pastimes in his notice of Vermont for 1891, and would gladly charge his words to dyspepsia, or kindred evil, if we believed that one who professes himself to be a Christian Knight and courteous Templar is warranted in descending to vulgarity and scurrility, and then flying to cover under a plea of ill-health. His allusion to Grand Commander Lewis, as one "who holds a position, the duties of which he lacks the mental calibre to fill properly" is a gratuitous insult to the Templars of Vermont, who have ever been the peers of the valiant and magnanimous Templars of any Grand Jurisdiction. Sir Lewis, himself, a prince in any realm of culture, courtesy, mental and moral worth, requires no defence at our hands. His record has been made, and is one to which every loyal Templar of Vermont points with pride. The occasion of the "very courteous" allusion to Sir Lewis is found in the noble and patriotic utterances of the latter in reference to Memorial Day.

We beg to assure our Brother that we have never yet made the plea of ill-

health as a cover for any of our utterances. On the contrary, we have always denied that our health had a thing to do with it, and we repeat that denial now. We may have been too severe in some of our deliverance, but any one who says we have used scurilous or vulgar language, is either ignorant of what those words mean or he tells a — well, we will call it "a story." We never had a doubt of Grand Commander Lewis' intelligence, respectability or his worth as a gentleman and a Templar, and *Eli* Perkins knew it when he made a ninny of himself by taking up the cudgel in his defense. We thought Bro. Lewis' judgment faulty on this subject, and we think so still, and the remark applies with equal force to his successor and the Grand Commandery of Vermont.

Quoting some more of our fulminations, on this subject, which he, sarcastically calls "choice and elegant language," he remarks :

All of which reminds us of the old fellow who had worked himself into a terrible rage, and was being soothed by his wife. "Don't tear round so, George," she said at last, "perhaps you are wrong after all." "I *know* I am," said the head of the family, expectorating violently, "and that's what makes me so mad." Now don't tear around so," dear Frater, "perhaps you are wrong after all."

It may be so, but we don't believe it. We thank Bro. Perkins for his implied sympathy for us in our affliction, but we protest against the assumption that it is responsible for our plain English, and our views of right and wrong—of what is proper or improper.

We have none but the kindest feeling toward our brethren of Vermont, but that fact does not blind us to their faults, and they have as many as the rest of us.

Correspondent M. O. Perkins, is Grand Commander ; Sir Walter G. Reynolds, Grand Recorder, and Past Grand Commander Haskins succeeds to the reportorial tripod.

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#### WASHINGTON—1839.

The Sixth Annual was held at Tacoma, June 9. R. E. Edward R. Hare, Grand Commander ; Sir Yancey C. Blalock, Grand Recorder. Seven Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

From the Grand Commander's address we clip the opening, which we think very beautiful, both in sentiment and diction :

Assembled in annual Conclave it is eminently proper that we should in that spirit of fraternity and knightly courtesy characteristic of our Order, take counsel together, retrospect the past and endeavor to forecast the future. The world is our field and humanity our theme ; man is a social creature for the uses, powers and enjoyments of life ; he is dependent upon a principle of reciprocity in society. Solitude dwarfs and reduces him below the normal standard of manhood ; without an interest in society, and society an interest in him, man is nothing, a weary blank in the great desert of time, a fine piece of mechanism, but useless and valueless, a failure, absolute, total. For this reason solitary confinement is the most dreaded of punishments, and it is this great hunger for the society of his fellow man that causes him to fraternize in domestic, social, political and religious institutions, among which certainly not the least is this of ours ; a glorious order which seeks to engraft in the general scheme for human progress the comprehension of absolute Truth and the practice of the Christian virtues, whose mission is the defence

of innocent maidens, helpless orphans and the injured or oppressed whenever and wherever found, and which teaches that priceless jewels of humanity are the beauty of Love, the charm of Friendship, the sacredness of Sorrow, the heroism of Patience and the courage of Truth.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory of those who have "passed away," both in his and other jurisdictions. He reports a steady and healthful growth of the Order.

He is not in accord with some others and the Grand Encampment in the matter of conferring degrees by one Commandery for another, as an act of courtesy, as the following shows:

TACOMA, WASHINGTON, January, 20, 1893.

*To the E. C., Officers and Members of Temple Commandery, No. 5, Knights Templar:*

SIR KNIGHTS—In compliance with your request I hereby authorize you to confer the Orders of Red Cross and Knights Templar upon Companion T. D. McFarlane, the accepted material of Tancred Commandery, No. 4, of Bismarck, North Dakota, the work being done at the request and for the benefit of Tancred Commandery, No. 4. It is not necessary for Companion McFarlane to be obliged to comply with our law regarding uniform unless required by the laws of Tancred Commandery, No. 4.

Given under my hand and private seal this 20th day of January, A. D. 1893,  
A. O., 775.

EDWARD R. HARE,  
Grand Commander.

Very right, sensible and proper. His dispensations were of the right sort, and accord with established usage and custom.

As a whole, the address and his administration was a success. Proceedings local. Finances sound. We note that a portrait of the R. E. adorns the pamphlet. We say "adorns" because he is right good looking. Under the law in this jurisdiction, we find that the Sword and Standard Bearers, Warder, Guards and Sentinel are appointed by the E. C. We are not sure that the rule is not a good one. Total membership, 509—again of 95.

Grand Recorder Blalock is the author of an excellent report on Correspondence, covering over 125 pages, in which he includes nearly all the performances of the Templar family, of general interest, Mississippi for 1892 and 1893 getting nine pages. What we object to in our brother's work is the absence of original matter. This we could excuse but for the fact that the ability is in him to make things howl if he pleased, and this is what he ought to do. The best way to do is to always carry your shillalah and whenever an obnoxious head, in the shape of an error, or a presumptuous mutual pops up, *hit it!* As compiler, Bro Blalock is a success; as commentator, a baldheaded failure.

R. E. Sir Eugene T. Wilson is Grand Commander. Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### WISCONSIN—1893.

The Thirty-fifth Annual was held in the city of Milwaukee, October 10th, a little over one month ago, which speaks volumes for the energy and vim of the

Grand Recorder in getting the pamphlet out so promptly. Sometimes this *can't* be done and this is what delays ours, when it is behind, and no fault can attach to our well beloved Bro. Power.

Sir E. S. Elliott, acting Grand Commander, presided; Sir John W. Laffin, Grand Recorder. Twenty-five Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address of Grand Commander W. H. Lewis was read by the Grand Recorder and the following excerpt therefrom accounts for his absence from the session:

To the Grand Officers and the Representatives of the twenty-five Commanderies of Wisconsin, assembled in annual conclave, I extend a cordial knightly greeting.

It is a matter of profound regret to me that having been chosen to that enviable position of Grand Commander, I have fallen so far short of creditably and worthily filling that honorable office.

A few months after the last annual conclave, business changes made it necessary for me to remove from the Jurisdiction, and on March 1st the command of the Templars of Wisconsin was turned over to the Deputy Grand Commander, Eminent Sir Eugene S. Elliott, than whom I am sure no worthier nor more popular Commander could be found in our ranks.

Although later I again moved my family to my old home, and count myself a citizen of Wisconsin, yet my business keeps me out of the jurisdiction, so that I have not since March 1st assumed any of the duties of Grand Commander.

I most cheerfully report, to the credit of the several Commanders, that I was called upon for no decision of Templar law or practice during my brief incumbency of the position.

The Deputy Grand Commander's address is a short but elegant paper. He seems to have had but little to do, as he reports no, dispensations, decisions or fights. He gets off a good many timely and sensible suggestions, which will, we hope, result in good to the Order. We commend the following to those of you who are sailing under the record of valor and blood of the founders and earlier members of the Order:

Sir Knights, the conditions that inspired the institution of this noble Order of Knighthood have long since ceased to exist; the abuses that nerved the arms of Hugh de Payne and Geoffry de St. Omar, no longer appeal to our manhood. Templarism in this Thirteenth Century was a necessity, or, if not a necessity, was justified and exalted by noble ends; but the Templarism of the Thirteenth Century with its mailed Knights, their journeys and their superstitions, would be as much out of place in this practical age as the battle ax in a modern contest at arms. The world moves, but we see it not; we only know that it has moved by comparing the present with the past. The church and the school-house are the mile-stones by which the continuous advance of civilization has been marked, an advance which, if gradual, has been constant and which indicates that the demands of the present differ radically from the needs of the past. Has Templarism kept pace with this advance or are we to-day a century or two behind the times?

If the sepulchre of our Lord no longer incites to new crusades, if the woes of the widow and the orphan no longer demand the intervention of armed defenders, have other and no less worthy objects been substituted for our care? Look back an hundred years and satisfy yourselves, by the same test by which you can compare the progress of civilization through the ages, whether the Order of Knight Templar has kept even pace with the times. Conditions have radically changed; have our methods correspondingly changed? Is there the same need for our existence as an Order as there was six hundred years ago, as there was

even one hundred years ago? If there is not such need, then are we derelict in our duty, for there are as grave wrongs to be redressed, as sacred rights to be maintained to-day as at any time since the institution of our Order. The question then presents itself:

Are our methods for redressing wrongs, for maintaining rights, for defending the Christian Religion, suitable to present conditions or adequate under existing circumstances? Let each Sir Knight here present answer these questions as his conscience dictates, but if in the negative, then let us bestir ourselves lest we be regarded by the impatient genius of this most wonderful age as an organization that has outlived its usefulness and is without excuse for continued existence.

I have sometimes thought that we plumed ourselves too greatly on the valiant deeds of our predecessors and regarded too little our own duties. It is pleasant to look back upon pleasant things, but dangerous, sometimes, since too much retrospection is liable to cost one his freshness and turn him into old salt, as Lot's wife discovered. I have also thought that we were too much inclined to play the fly upon the wheel of progress and deceive ourselves into the belief that we are responsible for the dust. Perhaps this is hypercriticism; if so, it can, at least, do no harm, while it may be profitable to take occasional reckoning so as to correct our course if perchance we have been steering wrong, and with this object in view, these too desultory remarks are respectfully submitted.

EUGENE S. ELLIOT,  
Deputy Grand Commander.

We note, in the minutes, that Bro. Swain only gets \$50 for his admirable Correspondence reports, which is less than one-third what it is worth. Dear brethren, don't be little. You can't afford it! Total membership, 2598—a gain of 111.

Bro. Swain's eleventh report on Correspondence is the next thing in the bill of fare, and will pass for a most excellent desert. In it he digests the doings of most of the Templar world in his own inimitable and pleasant style. Under Arkansas we find this:

He calls attention to the fact that the expenses of the Grand Commandery are out of proportion to the revenue, and recommends that the per capita tax be raised to \$1.50. The Grand Commandery did not see the raise, but made good the deficiency by taking \$100 per year from the salary of the Grand Recorder. This reminds us of the method of making both ends meet adopted by a small manufacturer in our city. He called his foreman on Saturday night, and said: "John, I lost six dollars on that job we did for Smith. I can't afford to lose that, so I will have to take it out of your salary." The system seems to work all right for the employer, so long as the employe does not kick.

Two of the Grand Representatives indulged in the pernicious practice of making reports, thus setting a bad example to the other similar ornaments of the Grand Commandery.

His review of Mississippi is fraternal and characteristically pleasant. We clip the following entire, so that you will understand the connection or reference:

And elsewhere he says he knows he is right in his opinions. We wish we were as sure that our opinions are all correct. We think they are, but we have seen so many people make mistakes, that we wouldn't like to swear by them. Well, we like DeLap, but we don't like quite a number of his opinions, notably among them the following:

"We quote for the purpose of denying that any man is a Christian, or can be, who does not believe in the doctrine of the Trinity, and if we had our way the roster of the Order would be abridged in just so far as the names of unbelievers

in this doctrine would go. As we had occasion to remark in a former report, the Commandery is not a corral for agnostics or tools of any kind."

We had the pleasure of receiving a greeting from DeLap at the Masonic Congress, through his business partner, for which we return thanks. But we agree with him in this:

"We are at some loss to imagine how Bro. Rugg can find anything in our Fred's pleasantries to retard the growth of the Order in this part of the Lord's vineyard. If the Institution can't stand such things as this, it ought to die. Nor can we any better see why he so gravely starts out on our report. There was nothing unkind, unknighly, unchristian or "un" anything else in our heart toward any human being when that report was written. The trouble with our brother is that he judges too much by appearances, while his Master and ours looks only at the heart."

If an institution or creed must only be spoken of in stilted and solemn terms and cannot endure plain Saxon, we have no great sympathy with it. If a creed is true itself, even the rough jibes of its enemies cannot hurt it, much less good-humored pleasantries from its friends.

He turns over the review of Carson's history of the formation of the Grand Encampment to Fred. Speed, who treats it in his usual vigorous style, going on to show that the original Constitution, under which it lived until 1844, was adopted by *four men*, and the original officers were elected by the same quartette. These four were Webb, Fowle, Snow and Lowndes—the latter representing the Grand Consistory of the Scottish Rite of New York, an alien body.

Regarding Speed and Bro. Carson he says: "We will let Speed and Carson fight this matter out, and when Carson comes back at him, if not too voluminous, we will quote that"

Referring to our answers to his batch of queries last year, he has this to say:

We should naturally take issue with him so far as Cromwell's soldiers are concerned, as every drop of blood in our body, in every line, is inherited from the New England Pilgrims and Puritans, and while the world has advanced to a broader plane since then, we have the highest respect for their sincerity and motives, and the debt which England and American freedom owes to them is incalculable.

In his fourth paragraph, he dodges the question. What is said of the Confederate army is true. The world has never seen braver soldiers or better fighters; but all the same, though in rags, the rags were *uniform*—butternut clothes worn out—and they were thoroughly disciplined. The same with Washington's soldiers at the close of the war. They wore uniforms of a kind, and they were *not* undisciplined when he conquered. Marion's men were brave fighters, and did good service, but they were guerrilla soldiers, and avoided pitched battles, and accomplished their work by sudden, unexpected attacks, and were never to be found when the enemy was looking for them. The soldier who despises a uniform may be good at fighting on his own hook, but he is not so good at working in harmony with his fellow soldiers.

We beg to apologize for seemingly saying a word against our brother's Puritan ancestors. We had no idea that the passengers of the Mayflower were any of the ex-soldiers of Cromwell's army. At all events we were not talking about the Puritans.

He is in error as to the uniformity of the rags of the Confederate soldier. If a conglomeration of butternut, gray and U. S. army blue is *uniform*, then we dodge. The facts are against you, William. We would like to linger with Bro. Swain a while longer but the Badger State is full.

Sir E. S. Elliott is Grand Commander; Sir Jno. W. Laffin, Grand Recorder; Sir Wm. C. Swain, Correspondent.

### WEST VIRGINIA—1893.

The Nineteenth Annual was held in the city of Martinsburg, May 10th. R.: E.: Sir E. L. Buttrick, Grand Commander, presiding. E.: Sir R. C. Dunnington, Grand Recorder. Ten Commanderies were represented.

The address of Grand Commander is a brief, but well written epitome of his administration, but is confined to matters of local import only.

Proceedings short and local. Total membership 636.

The Report on Correspondence is by Sir O. S. Long, covers over 100 pages, reviews the minutes of nearly all the Templar Grand Bodies, and is an excellent production, as it ought to be after a "ten years furlough." He opens as follows:

After a furlough of ten years we have resumed service in the ranks of the reviewers. In the preparation of this report we have been guided mainly by the rules which governed our former efforts in this line and have endeavored to set before our brethren, the Knights Templar in West Virginia, some glimpse of the condition of the Order in other American States, some idea of what is being done and what has been said in regard to Templar affairs, in order that the Knights here at home may be in touch with and partake the spirit of that grand army of noble and earnest men, who with ever increasing ranks are bearing onward the banner of Christian brotherhood. In this we are not purveyors to the general market; our report is "for home consumption" alone. Hence we have, for the greater part, refrained from criticism and debate, and have not felt ourselves justified in commenting upon matters that are "none of our business."

"'Tis said that people ought to guard their noses,  
Who thrust them into matters none of theirs."

Under "Canada" he says: "We do not 'annex' Canada; we absorb her and give her her alphabetical place in the great American Sisterhood, where she of right belongs and where we all hope she will come to stay of her own free will and accord." To which we add: "If she won't come that way, she *must* come the othe way." It is high time that the "English Lion" shall give uninterrupted dominion to the American Eagle on this continent, and when we are President, if not before, that day will dawn, or there will be a fight.

Under Mississippi he has these flattering remarks anent "Our Fred," in referring to the somewhat celebrated Law report at Vicksburg:

The following report is a good sample of his judicial style. He is well known throughout the Masonic world as a forcible and graceful writer, a ready and eloquent speaker and the peer in knightly qualities and nobility of soul of any who ever set lance in rest for a just and virtuous cause.

This is all true, but if these eulogistic remarks by distinguished men are continued to any considerable extent, we tremble for the effect it may have on Fred's vanity.

We copy his remarks about your committee for the sole purpose of denying that we intentionally ever "imitated," or tried to "imitate" any mortal man. We are not built that way. But here is what he says:

But the portion of pamphlet containing the published proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, which usually attracts most attention, is the Report on Correspondence, by Sir George DeLap, of Natchez. He is the "Rev. Sam Jones" of the reviewers, and his style is, perhaps, unconsciously, an imitation of the pulpit utterances of that worthy; more forcible than polite. He protests, however, that he is not "venomous" and asks forgiveness of all whose feelings he may have wounded. At all events, his report is "mighty interestin' readin'."

From his closing we excerpt:

There is a much more general observance of "sermon days" than ever before, and it cannot be doubted that the influence of even these outward forms of religion has borne good fruit. It is to be hoped that these gracious influences may continue to spread until the whole of this gallant army of generous and noble-hearted men "may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life."

We can say amen to the "hope" expressed, but are inclined to the belief that its fruition will be delayed until the heart becomes sick.

Sir Alfred Paull is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir R. C. Dunnington, Grand Recorder; Sir O. S. Long, chairman Committee on Correspondence.

#### WYOMING—1893.

The Sixth Annual was held in the city of Evanston, May 10th. R. E. Sir Jno. C. Baird, Grand Commander presiding; Sir Adrian J. Parshall, Grand Recorder. Four Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is a good one. He is strongly in favor of elevating to the position of Eminent Commander only those who have achieved distinction by faithful service in the minor places. An excellent idea, and one that commends itself to the better judgment of all sensible fraters. The custom of making a man Eminent Commander simply because he is a good fellow, when he is utterly incompetent to read a paragraph of ordinary English intelligently, and knows no more about the Ritual, old or new, than the Greek slave does of the comforts of warm clothing, and is too obtuse or lazy to learn, is an outrage on the Institution. Let's quit it.

He preaches quite a sermon on "The Almighty Force of Truth," which contains some elegant passages, and is, as a whole, first-class.

He issued but two dispensations, and both for proper purposes. His decisions are sound.

He urges upon his successor to use all "moral suasion in his power to get a Correspondent, and a report, too, for the coming Templar year."

Why not buy one? The woods of Wyoming are doubtless full of embryo Correspondents of the highest order; but don't ask them to do the work for nothing. They won't do it. If they do, the work will be worth no more than it cost. We note that the R. E. was himself appointed chairman of the Foreign Correspondence Committee, and we shall look for a first-class report next year. D. V.

Proceedings local; Order in excellent shape in all respects. Total membership, 198—a gain of two. •



Sir Jno. K. Jeffrey is R. E. Grand Commander. Grand Recorder as before.  
R. E. Sir Jno. C. Baird, Correspondent.

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### CONCLUSION.

Having finished our work, we submit it for your inspection. We trust that you may find some matters of interest in it and nothing to condemn. We have tried to be conservative and avoid being obstreperous. Some of our deliverances in last report on the subject of attending divine service, have wounded the sensibilities of some of our friends, whose feelings are sacred to us. We regret the fact that they had cause, but deny that it was found in the feelings and motives that inspired our language. We are not perfect, although so singularly near that point, and have made mistakes. We made a large one in saying that the Grand Commandery of Mississippi annually desecrated God's house by attending divine service in uniform. The charge was a sweeping one and should not have been made, because we did not mean it as the cold English, in black and white, makes it look. Will you forget and forgive on our assurance of unabated confidence in the integrity of the Christian character of the Templars of Mississippi? We are not opposed to devotional services on the occasion of the Annual Conclaves, or on Templar Holy Days, but on the contrary, are firm believers in them. What we think is wrong—and we certainly have a right to our opinion—is the wearing of the uniform and swords on the occasions, and in this view we think we have the support of God's word as we certainly do that of some of the best and purest of the host, among others R. E. and Rev. Sir H. W. Rugg, of Massachusetts.

While we are of this mind, there are others equally as honest in their convictions as we are, of a contrary opinion, and we have concluded that the further agitation of the subject will do no good, hence we have dropped the subject.

The above is intended as apologetic for our shortcomings on the line named, and we hope our disclaimer of any intention of being rude or unkind to our brethren of Mississippi will be accepted and do away with any friction our imprudence may have caused.

There are still a number of pamphlets missing, notably Ohio, which accounts for their non-appearance in this report. We regret it, but it can't be helped. They, in common with those reviewed, have our very best wishes for their success and prosperity.

The Order is generally prosperous, and absolute peace prevails over all the Templar world.

Praying that the choicest blessing of heaven may rest upon each one of you always, we remain,

Courteously and fraternally yours,

E. G. DeLAP.

## ADDRESS OF GRAND RECORDERS.

Alabama .....	EDMUND R. HASTINGS.....	Mongomery.
Arizona .....	DOUGLASS SNYDER.....	Tucson.
Arkansas .....	JAMES A. HENRY .....	Little Rock.
California.....	THOS. H. CASWELL.....	San Francisco.
Canada, Great Priory.....	LUTHER B. ARCHIBALD.....	Truro.
Colorado.....	ED. C. PARMELEE .....	Denver.
Connecticut .....	JOS. K. WHEELER .....	Hartford.
England and Wales.....	WM. TINKLER, V. C.....	London, W. C.
Georgia.....	SAMUEL P. HAMILTON.....	Savannah.
Illinois.....	GILBERT W. BARNARD .....	Chicago.
Indiana.....	WM. H. SMYTHE.....	Indianapolis.
Iowa .....	ALF. WINGATE .....	Des Moines.
Ireland .....	JOHN A. BAKER .....	Dublin.
Kansas .....	DWIGHT BYINGTON.....	Leavenworth.
Kentucky.....	LORENZO D. CRONINGER....	Covington.
Louisiana.....	RICHARD LAMBERT.....	New Orleans.
Maine .....	STEPHEN BERRY .....	Portland.
Maryland.....	JOHN H. MILLER.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts and Rhode Island.....	BENJ. W. ROWELL.....	Lynn.
Michigan .....	JOHN A. GEROW.....	Detroit.
Minnesota .....	THOS. MONTGOMERY.....	St. Paul.
Mississippi .....	J. L. POWER.....	Jackson.
Missouri.....	WM. H. MAYO.....	St. Louis.
Montana.....	CORNELIUS HEDGES .....	Helena.
Nebraska.....	WM. R. BOWEN .....	Omaha.
New Hampshire.....	GEO. P. CLEAVES .....	Concord.
New Jersey .....	CHAS. BECHTEL.....	Trenton.
New York.....	ROBT. MACOY .....	New York.
North Dakota.....	FRANK J. THOMPSON.....	Fargo.
North Carolina.....	HORACE H. MUNSON.....	Wilmington.
Ohio .....	JOHN N. BELL.....	Dayton.
Oregon .....	JAS. F. ROBINSON.....	Eugene.
Pennsylvania .....	MONT. H. SMITH .....	Philadelphia.
Prince Edward Island.....	B. WILSON HIGGS.....	Charlottetown.
Scotland .....	LINDSEY MACKERSEY.....	Edinburg.
South Dakota .....	W. H. HOLT.....	Sioux Falls.
Tennessee.....	WILBUR F. FOSTER.....	Nashville.
Texas .....	ROBERT BREWSTER.....	Houston.
Vermont.....	WARREN G. REYNOLDS....	Burlington.
Victoria, Great Priory.....	CHARLES CHAPMAN.....	Melbourne, Aus.
Virginia .....	WM. B. ISAACS .....	Richmond.
Washington.....	YANCEY C. BLALOCK.....	Walla Walla.
Wyoming.....	ADRIAN J. PARSHALL.....	Cheyenne.
West Virginia.....	R. C. DUNNINGTON.....	Fairmount.
Wisconsin .....	JOHN W. LAFLIN .....	Milwaukee.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT—R. E. Sir Hugh McCurdy, Grand Master, Corunna, Michigan; William B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder, Richmond, Va. Next Triennial Grand Conclave at Boston, August 27, 1895.

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMISSIONED TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

<i>Grand Commandery.</i>	<i>Representative—Postoffice.</i>	<i>Date of Commission.</i>
Alabama .....	REV. N. G. AUGUSTUS, Okolona.....	March 16, 1893.
Arkansas.....	.....	.....
California .....	PHINEAS M. SAVERY, Tupelo.....	.....
Colorado.....	T. G. BIRCHETT, M. D., Vicksburg..	January 24, 1890.
Connecticut.....	JOHN A. DICKS, Natchez .....	December —, 1892.
Georgia.....	J. C. FRENCH, Natchez.....	December 7, 1892.
Illinois .....	WM. G. PAXTON, P.G.C., Vicksburg...	January 22, 1890.
Indiana.....	WM. STARLING, Greenville.....	July 10, 1892.
Iowa .....	FREDERIC SPEED, P.G.C., Vicksburg...	December 31, 1889.
Kansas .....	WM. G. BENBROOK, P.G.C., Natchez..	January 15, 1890.
Kentucky .....	JNO. H. GORDON, P.G.C., Port Gibson.	January 1, 1890.
Louisiana .....	.....	.....
Maine.....	C. L. LINCOLN, Columbus.....	April 12, 1893.
Maryland.....	FRANK BURKITT, Okolona.....	February 10, 1890.
Massachusetts and Rhode Island....	B. A. VAUGHAN, P.G.C., Columbus...	January 15, 1890.
Minnesota.....	H. M. ROMBERGER, Winona.....	January 15, 1890.
Missouri.....	J. L. POWER, Jackson.....	February 4, 1890.
Montana .....	.....	.....
Nebraska.....	EMMET N. THOMAS, Greenville .....	April 12, 1894.
New Hampshire.....	.....	.....
New Jersey.....	N. S. WALKER, P.G.C., Port Gibson..	January 6, 1889.
New York.....	.....	.....
North Dakota.....	.....	.....
Ohio .....	REV. JNO. A. B. JONES, Bolton.....	April 10, 1893.
Oregon.....	.....	.....
Pennsylvania .....	CHAS. T. CHAMBERLAIN, Natchez ....	March 14, 1893.
South Dakota .....	W. G. SYKES, Aberdeen.....	May —, 1893.
Tennessee .....	WM. STARLING, Greenville.....	January 21, 1890.
Texas.....	G. J. BAHIN, Natchez.....	January 24, 1891.
Vermont .....	J. J. HAYES, P.G.C., Vicksburg.....	October 1, 1892.
Virginia.....	.....	.....
Washington.....	W. B. WALKER, Aberdeen.....	1894.
West Virginia.....	W. A. BODENHAMER, Okolona.....	.....
Wisconsin.....	JOHN A. DICKS, Natchez.....	.....
Wyoming.....	.....	.....

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMISSIONED BY THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

<i>Grand Commandery.</i>	<i>Representative—Postoffice.</i>	<i>Date of Commission.</i>
Alabama.....	PETER ZINSZER, Mobile.....	March —, 1893.
Arkansas.....	GEO. P. TAYLOR, Forest City.....	January 18, 1890.
California.....	THOS. H. CASWELL, San Francisco....	December 23, 1890.
Colorado.....	ALFONSO A. BURNARD, Leadville.....	January 2, 1890.
Connecticut.....	ELI C. BIRDSEY, Meriden.....	
Georgia.....	FELIX CORPUT, Macon.....	November 28, 1892.
Illinois.....	JAS. C. HAWLEY, Dixon.....	December 24, 1892.
Indiana.....	JOHN W. CRUFT, Terre Haute.....	November 28, 1889.
Iowa.....	JAMES MORTON.....	November 28, 1893.
Kansas.....	JOHN M. PRICE, Atchison... ..	January 18, 1890.
Kentucky.....	REGNOLD HEBER THOMPSON.....	June 18, 1892.
Louisiana.....	JOSEPH H. DEGRANGE... ..	
Maine.....	J. H. DRUMMOND, Portland.....	December 23, 1889.
Maryland.....	GEO. COOK, Baltimore.....	April 9, 1891.
Massachusetts and Rhode Island....	BENJAMIN ROWELL, Lyn.....	December 16, 1892.
Michigan.....		
Minnesota.....	CALVIN L. SPAULDING, Brainard.....	January 18, 1890.
Missouri.....	ALEX. M. DOCKERY, St. Louis.....	February 5, 1890.
Montana.....	E. D. AIKIN, Butte City.....	
Nebraska.....	SAMUEL W. HAYS, Norfolk.....	January 24, 1890.
New Hampshire ...	REV. DANIEL CRANE ROBERTS, D. D., Concord.....	
New Jersey.....	THOMAS GORDON.....	December 23, 1889.
New York.....	JOHN ANDERSON, Binghampton.....	March 25, 1892.
North Carolina....	J. W. HUNTER, Winston.....	December 20, 1889.
North Dakota.....	JAMES A. JENKS, Grand Forks.....	June 8, 1891.
Ohio.....	WM. L. BEUCHNER, Youngstown.....	March 11, 1883.
Oregon.....		
Pennsylvania.....	JAS. H. CODDING, Tonawanda.....	July 10, 1891.
South Dakota.....	LEVI B. FRENCH, Yankton.....	May 8, 1893.
Tennessee.....	MORTON B. HOWELL, Nashville.....	January 21, 1890.
Texas.....	HENRY M. HOLMES, Austin.....	May 1, 1891.
Vermont.....	GEO. W. SQUIRE, Swanton.....	January 18, 1889.
Virginia.....		
Washington.....	WALTER J. THOMPSON, Tacoma.....	May 24, 1889.
West Virginia.....	THOS. M. DARRAH, Wheeling.....	November 26, 1892.
Wisconsin.....	N. C. GRIFFIN, Fond du Lac.....	
Wyoming.....	JOHN C. DAVIS, Rawlins.....	April 5, 1893.

# GRAND COMMANDERS,

FROM ORGANIZATION 1857 TO 1894.

---

WILLIAM H. STEVENS.....	1857 to 1858—Died October 13, 1866.
GEORGE P. CRUMP.....	1858 to 1859—Died 1860.
GILES M. HILLYER.....	1859 to 1860—Died April 23, 1871.
HARVEY W. WALTER.....	1860 to 1861—Died September 19, 1878.
BENJ. S. TAPPAN.....	1861 to 1866—Died March 1, 1866.
EDWARD LEA.....	1866 to 1867—Died 1867.
CHRISTOPHER A. MANLOVE.....	1867 to 1868—Died December 29, 1878.
FLEET C. MERCER.....	1869 to 1870—Died January 26, 1885.
JOHN K. FULSON, Water Valley.....	1869 to 1870
CHARLES T. BOND.....	1870 to 1871—Died October 14, 1872.
WILLIAM S. PATTON.....	1871 to 1872—Died July 5, 1889.
E. GEO. DELAP, Natchez.....	1872 to 1873
E. T. HENRY.....	1873 to 1874—Died April 10, 1881.
PHINEAS M. SAVERY, Tupelo.....	1874 to 1875
Gid W. Cox, Columbus.....	1875 to 1876
OLIVER CLIFTON, Jackson.....	1876 to 1877
WILLIAM A. FAIRCHILD.....	1877 to 1878—Died September 20, 1878.
WILLIAM G. PAXTON, Vicksburg.....	1878 to 1879
CHARLES M. ERWIN.....	1879 to 1880
WILLIAM G. BENBROOK, Natchez.....	1880 to 1881
WILLIAM FRENCH.....	1881 to 1892—Died April 28, 1884.
JAMES T. MEADE, Birmingham, Ala.....	1882 to 1883
H. M. ROMBERGER, Winona.....	1883 to 1884
W. P. TOWLER.....	1884 to 1885—Died March 30, 1893.
JOHN H. GORDON, Port Gibson.....	1885 to 1886
B. A. VAUGHAN, M. D., Columbus.....	1886 to 1887
N. S. WALKER, Port Gibson.....	1887 to 1889
FREDERIC SPEED, Vicksburg.....	1888 to 1890
JAS. J. HAYES, Vicksburg.....	1890 to 1891
J. E. LEIGH.....	1891 to 1892—Died November 7, 1891.
W. A. BODENHAMER, Okolona.....	1892 to 1893
S. W. FERGUSON, Greenville.....	1893 to 1894
J. C. FRENCH.....	1894

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## HONORARY PAST GRAND COMMANDERS.

J. L. POWKR, P.E.C.....	Mississippi, No. 1—elected 1891
JOHN D. MILES, P.E.C.....	Magnolia, No. 2—elected 1892

#### **FEES FOR THE ORDERS.**

Shall not be less than forty dollars, but each Commandery may charge a higher sum. Fees cannot be remitted, directly or indirectly. Recorder is responsible for their payment.

#### **ANNUAL DUES.**

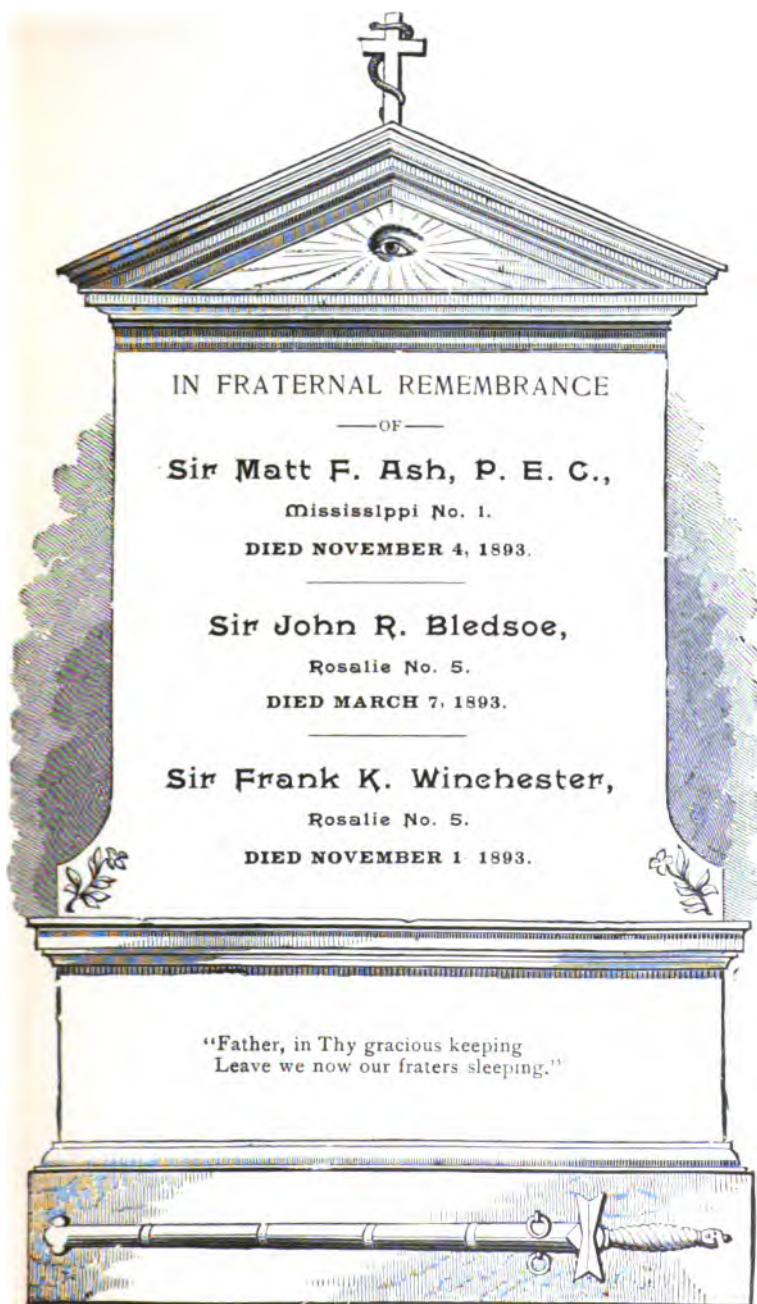
Amount is fixed by each Commandery, payable on or before Stated Conclave in December. Two years' indebtedness forfeits membership, and the member can only be reinstated by paying up all arrearages; but "Commandery may excuse the payment of dues under peculiar circumstances.

#### **DUES TO GRAND COMMANDERY.**

One dollar for each member on the roll December 27. Five dollars for each member Knighted during year. One dollar for each member reinstated for the number of years Commandery requires him to pay arrearages..

#### **JURISDICTION OF COMMANDERIES.**

Section 3, General Regulations, relating to the jurisdiction of Commanderies over applicants for the Orders, was repealed in 1886, *vide* page 12, proceedings, and all restrictions upon jurisdiction over candidates in the State of Mississippi "abolished." It is entirely competent for a Commandery in the extreme southern limits of the State to entertain a petition from a candidate residing in the most northern; in other words, applicants may go where they please for the Orders, so long as they do not go outside of the State.



IN FRATERNAL REMEMBRANCE

—OF—

**Sir Matt F. Ash, P. E. C.,**

Mississippi No. 1.

DIED NOVEMBER 4, 1893.

**Sir John R. Bledsoe,**

Rosalie No. 5.

DIED MARCH 7, 1893.

**Sir Frank K. Winchester,**

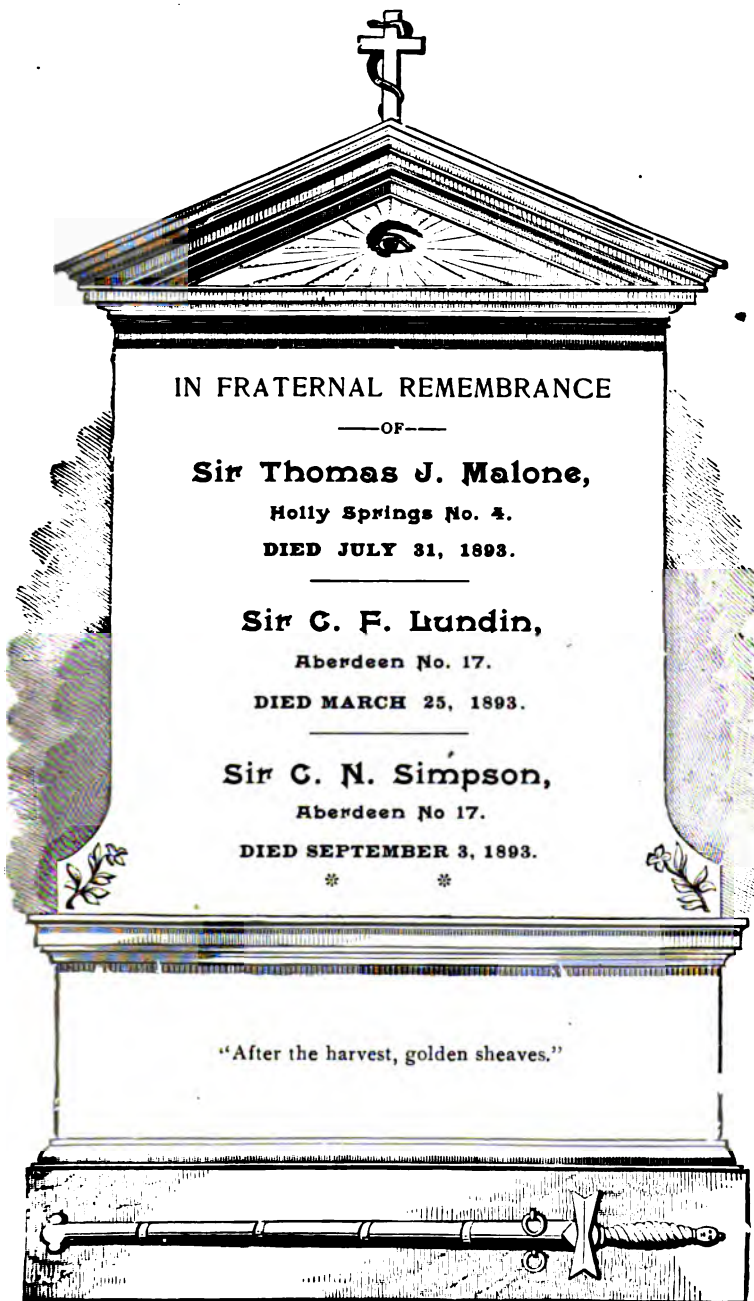
Rosalie No. 5.

DIED NOVEMBER 1 1893.

"Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now our fraters sleeping."







IN FRATERNAL REMEMBRANCE

—OF—

**Sir Thomas J. Malone,**

Holly Springs No. 4.

DIED JULY 31, 1893.

**Sir C. F. Lundin,**

Aberdeen No. 17.

DIED MARCH 25, 1893.

**Sir C. N. Simpson,**

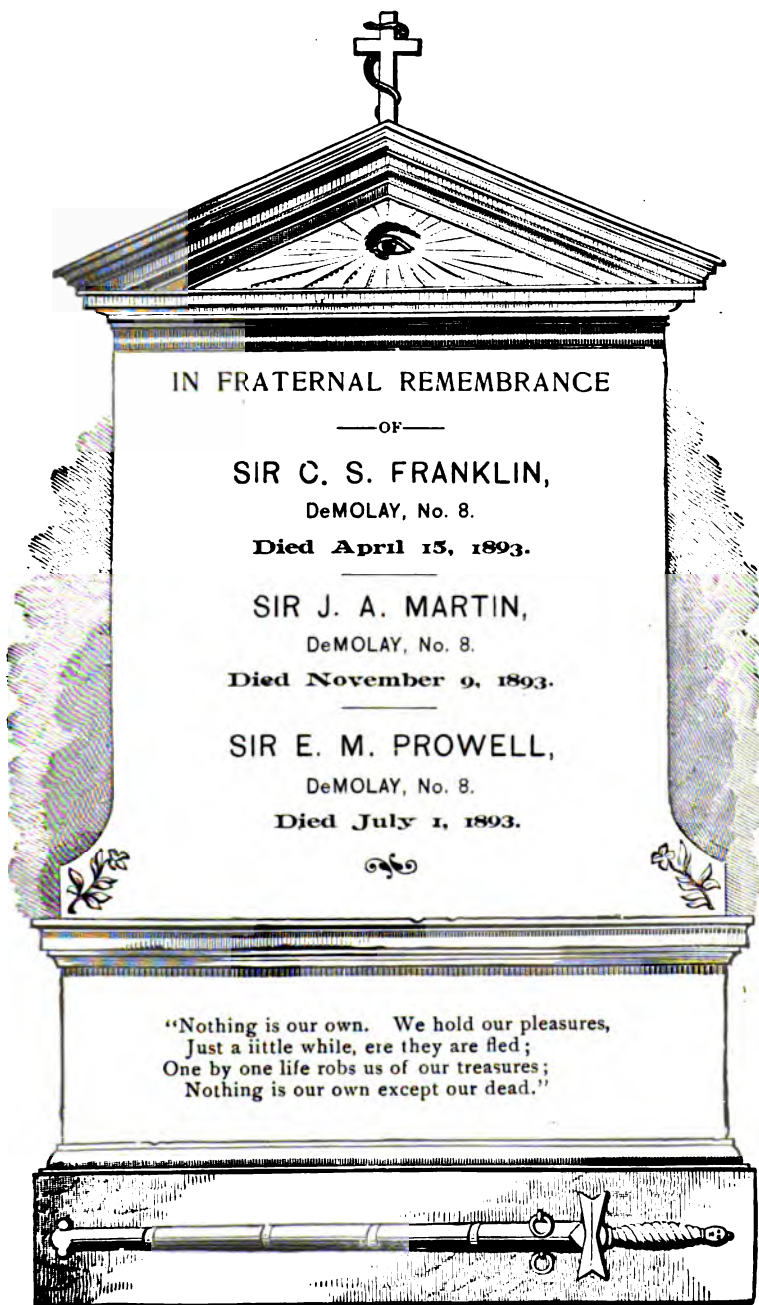
Aberdeen No 17.

DIED SEPTEMBER 3, 1893.

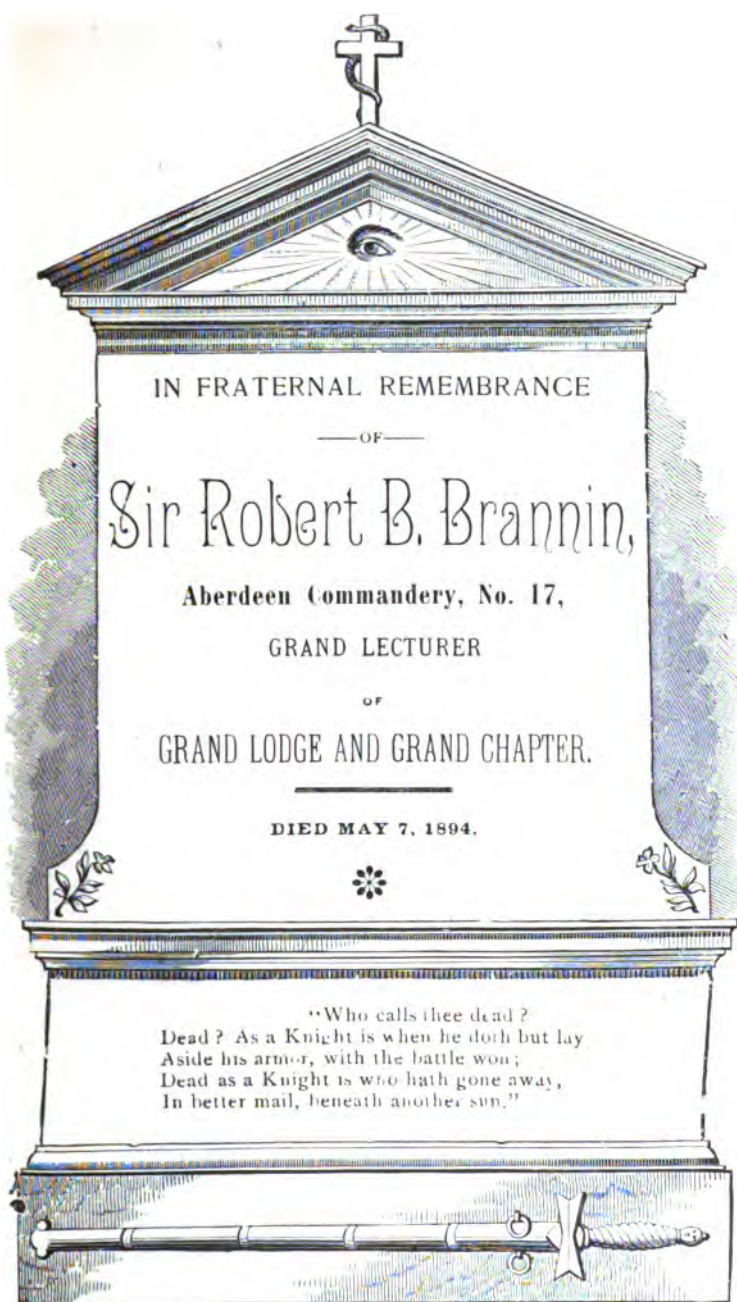
\* \*

"After the harvest, golden sheaves."









IN FRATERNAL REMEMBRANCE

— OF —

Sir Robert B. Brannin,

Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17,

GRAND LECTURER

OF

GRAND LODGE AND GRAND CHAPTER.

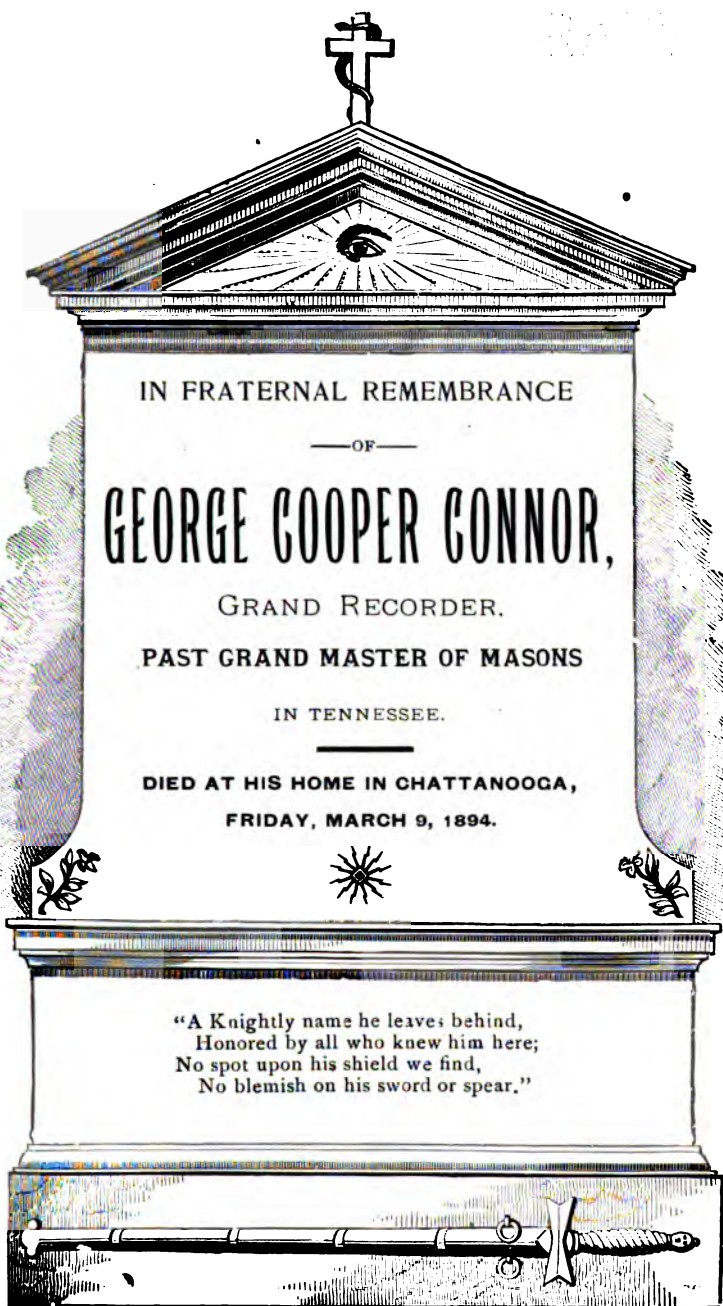
DIED MAY 7, 1894.



“Who calls thee dead?  
Dead? As a Knight is when he doth but lay  
Aside his armor, with the battle won;  
Dead as a Knight is who hath gone away,  
In better mail, beneath another sun.”







IN FRATERNAL REMEMBRANCE

—OF—

GEORGE COOPER CONNOR,

GRAND RECORDER.

PAST GRAND MASTER OF MASONS

IN TENNESSEE.

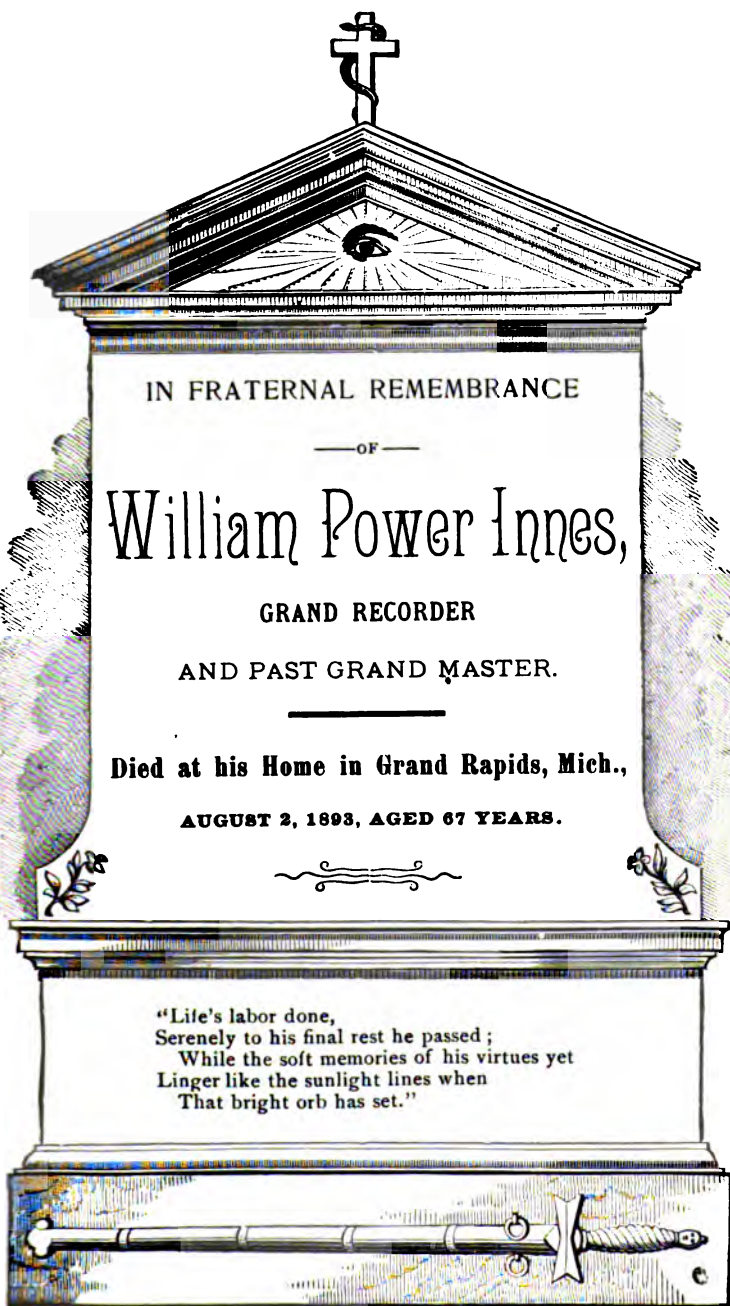
DIED AT HIS HOME IN CHATTANOOGA,

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1894.

"A Knightly name he leaves behind,  
Honored by all who knew him here;  
No spot upon his shield we find,  
No blemish on his sword or spear."

STAT.HM  
YRABGL







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### CORRECTIONS.

PAGE 7—It should appear that Past Grand Commander E. Geo. DeLap submitted Report on Fraternal Correspondence, and same was ordered printed.

PAGE 10—Sir N. G. Augustus, and not Sir T. W. Lewis, was elected Grand Prelate. Page 14 shows that Sir Augustus resigned, and Sir Lewis was elected.



# —•—•—•—•—•—•— **GRAND OFFICERS**—•—•—•—•—•—•—

1894-'95.

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SIR J. C. FRENCH, M. D. .... Natchez. .... R., E., Grand Commander.  
REV. SIR WM. CROSS. .... Greenville ..... V., E., Dep. Gr. Commander.  
SIR F. P. JINKINS. .... Aberdeen ..... Grand Generalissimo.  
SIR J. M. BUCHANAN, M. D., Meridian ..... Grand Captain-General.  
REV. SIR T. W. LEWIS. .... Booneville. .... Grand Prelate.  
SIR JAMES T. HARRISON ..... Columbus. .... Grand Senior Warden.  
SIR W. B. WALKER ..... Aberdeen ..... Grand Junior Warden.  
SIR G. J. BAHIN. .... Natchez .... Grand Treasurer.  
SIR J. L. POWER ..... Jackson. .... Grand Recorder.  
SIR WM. STARLING ..... Greenville ..... Grand Standard Bearer.  
SIR JOHN S. COBB ..... Verona. .... Grand Sword Bearer.  
SIR J. W. KEYES. .... Tupelo ..... Grand Warden.  
SIR C. C. BUDER. .... Columbus. .... Grand Captain of the Guard.

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## **STANDING COMMITTEES.**

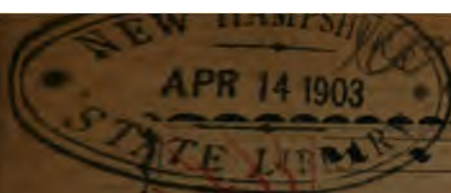
TEMPLAR LAW.—Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg ; Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Vicksburg ; P. M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE.—E. Geo. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez.

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### **THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GRAND CONCLAVE**

will be held in the city of West Point, on Tuesday, February 12, 1895, commencing at 10 o'clock A. M.



*Received from*

Thirty-Fifth  
→ Annual \* Conclave ←



1895.







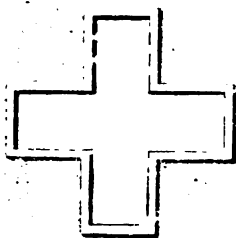


*fraternally*

*R. B. Brannin*

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE  
OF THE  
GRAND COMMANDERY  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,  
OF THE  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

HELD AT  
WEST POINT, FEBRUARY 12-14,  
1895



JACKSON, MISS.  
CLAYTON-LEDGER PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.  
1895.



*Respectfully*

*R. B. Branson*

FM 13  
v35

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

—OF THE—

GRAND COMMANDERY

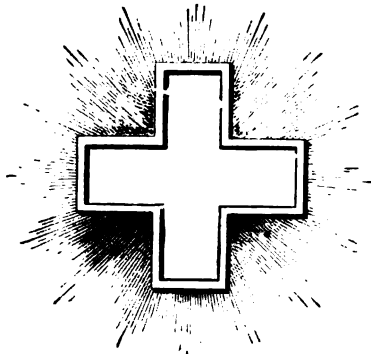
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,

—OF THE—

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

—HELD AT—



WEST POINT, FEBRUARY 12-14,  
1895.



JACKSON, MISS.:

CLARION-LEDGER PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1895.

 THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GRAND CONCLAVE  
Will be held in JACKSON, on Tuesday, February  
19, 1896, commencing at 10 o'clock A. M. 

# GRAND COMMANDERY.

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## THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE.

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THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI  
assembled in its Thirty-Fifth Annual Conclave in the rooms of the  
Young Mens' Christian Association at West Point, on Tuesday,  
February 12, 1895, at 10 o'clock A. M.

### PRESENT.

SIR J. C. FRENCH, ..... R. E. Grand Commander.  
SIR W. B. WALKER ..... V. E. Dep. Gr. Commander.  
SIR F. P. JINKINS, ..... Grand Generalissimo.  
SIR J. M. BUCHANAN, ..... Grand Captain-General.  
REV. SIR T. W. LEWIS, ..... Grand Prelate.  
SIR JAMES T. HARRISON, ..... Grand Senior Warden.  
SIR W. B. WALKER, ..... Grand Junior Warden.  
SIR G. J. BAHIN, ..... Grand Treasurer.  
SIR J. L. POWER, ..... Grand Recorder.  
SIR WM. STARLING, ..... Grand Standard Bearer.  
SIR JOHN S. COBB, ..... Grand Sword Bearer.  
SIR J. W. KEYES, ..... Grand Warder.  
SIR C. C. BUDER, ..... Grand Captain of the Guard.  
ABSENT--Rev. Sir WM. CROSS, Deputy Grand Commander.

### PAST GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

E. GEO. DELAP, ..... Past Grand Commander.  
PHINEAS M. SAVERY, ..... Past Grand Commander.  
WILLIAM G. PAXTON, ..... Past Grand Commander.  
FREDERIC SPEED, ..... Past Grand Commander.  
B. A. VAUGHAN, ..... Past Grand Commander.  
N. G. AUGUSTUS, ..... Past Grand Prelate.

### GRAND REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.

REV. N. G. AUGUSTUS, ..... Grand Commandery of Alabama.  
J. C. FRENCH, ..... Grand Commandery of Georgia.  
P. M. SAVERY, P.G.C., ..... Grand Commandery of California.

WM. G. PAXTON, P.G.C. ....Grand Commandery of Illinois.  
 WM. STARLING.....Grand Commandery of Indiana.  
 FREDERIC SPEED, P.G.C.....Grand Commandery of Iowa.  
 C. L. LINCOLN.....Grand Commandery of Maine.  
 J. L. POWER.....Grand Commandery of Missouri.  
 REV. JOHN A. B. JONES.....Grand Commandery of Ohio.  
 WM. STARLING.....Grand Commandery of Tennessee.  
 G. J. BAHIN.....Grand Commandery of Texas.  
 JOHN A. DICKS.....Grand Commandery of Connecticut.  
 " " ".....Grand Commandery of Wisconsin.  
 B. A. VAUGHAN, P.G.C.,Grand Commandery of Mass. and Rhode Island.  
 W. G. SYKES.....Grand Commandery of South Dakota.

Also present. Representatives from all the Commanderies, and an unusually large number of visitors.

The members of the several Standing Committees were present as follows:

TEMPLAR LAW- Frederic Speed, Wm. G. Paxton, P. M. Savery.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE- E. G. DeLap.

The Grand Commandery was opened in Ample and Knightly Form.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced as the

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS-—Sirs B. A. Weaver, J. A. B. Jones, G. D. Brown.

And the Committee, immediately thereafter, submitted the following report:

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

To the Grand Commandery:

Your Committee on Credentials beg leave to report that the several Subordinate Commanderies are represented as follows:

MISSISSIPPI, No. 1-

Nolan Stewart, Eminent Commander.  
 Wm. B. Taylor, Captain-General.

MAGNOLIA, No. 2-

Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Representative.

HOLLY SPRINGS, No. 4

J. W. Stephenson, proxy for E. C.

ROSALIE, No. 5-

E. G. DeLap, P.G.C., Eminent Commander.  
 J. F. Dixon, Generalissimo.  
 J. C. French, G.C., proxy for Captain-General.

ST. CYR, No. 6-

G. D. Brown, Eminent Commander.

DEMOLAY, No. 8 -

B. A. Vaughan, P.G.C., Generalissimo.  
 B. A. Weaver, Captain-General.

CYRENE No. 9-

J. H. Wright, Eminent Commander.



IVANHOE. No. 10—

J. S. Cobb, Eminent Commander.

CEUR DE LION. No. 13—

Jno. A. B. Jones, P.E.C., proxy for E. C. C.

DELTA. No. 16—

William Starling, Eminent Commander.

ABERDEEN. No. 17—

W. B. Walker, P.E.C., Eminent Commander.

O. L. McKay, Captain-General.

Also in attendance:

Rev. Sir D. B. Waddell, P.E.C., Cyrene Commandery No. 9.

Sir Wm. G. Sykes, P.E.C., Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17.

Also present, the following visitors:

Sir Geo. C. Hoskins, Generalissimo, and Sir E. McCormick, St. Elmo Commandery, U. D.

HOLLY SPRINGS, No. 4—S. H. Pryor.

ROSALIE, No. 5—L. E. Hildreth, Melchior Beltzhoover, Jno. A. Dicks, C. F. Merrick.

ST. CYR. No. 6—R. H. Ramsey, D. H. Hallowell.

DEMOLAY, No. 8—J. P. Stansell, D. S. McClanahan, E. S. Moore, W. D. Prowell, W. C. McCuller, H. M. Waddell, T. B. Franklin.

CYRENE, No. 9—B. V. White, J. L. Spinks, C. M. Rubish, E. J. Martin, C. C. Coffee, C. R. Hoyer, C. S. Eastman, E. E. Clement, Ebenezer Thompson, J. E. Aiken, W. B. Harbason.

IVANHOE, No. 10—W. X. Wilson, W. J. Stockett.

ABERDEEN, No. 17—J. J. McDonald, S. H. Berg.

Courteously submitted,

B. A. WEAVER.

J. A. B. JONES.

G. D. BROWN.

Committee.

The report was received and committee discharged.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the following Committee:

ON COMMANDERIES UNDER DISPENSATION—Sirs J. S. Cobb, J. F. Dixon, B. A. Vaughan.

The Grand Commandery then proceeded to the Baptist church, where the

#### OFFICES OF DEVOTION

were observed in a very impressive manner, under the direction of Rev. Sir T. W. Lewis, Grand Prelate, who delivered the following discourse:  
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER AND SIR KNIGHTS OF MISSISSIPPI:

God, in his providence, has watched over us another year, and brought us together in this Annual Conclave. His loving and gentle hand has led us, and his Holy Spirit has guided us in all our ways. As an unwavering trust in the Saviourhood of Christ is a condition of entrance into this

Order. I propose to call your attention to one scene in the life of Christ : a scene which fittingly closed that wonderful life on earth. I refer to the ascension of Christ (Acts 1:9). The disclosures which he made of himself while in the flesh, were designed to reveal to his disciples his true nature. Step by step he had raised their conceptions of himself, until now he would ascend in their presence and show them that he was indeed the conqueror of death and hell. Through all the years of his ministry he had veiled himself in human form, but ever and anon he had taught the disciples to look upon him as the promised Messiah. The last scene is now to be enacted. The lowly Nazarene is to be exalted to immortal and Divine majesty at the right hand of the Father. He led his disciples out toward Bethany, and reaching Mt. Olivet he stopped, and lifted up his hands and blessed them, and ascended in their presence. How the hearts of the disciples must have leaped with joy as they felt the touch of that last blessing ! How the last words of departed loved ones linger with us to cheer us in our solitude and refresh us in our hours of weariness and pain ! No wonder the disciples rejoiced as they felt the magnetic touch of our Lord in that last blessing. I call your attention—

First. *To the Purposes of the Ascension.* The resurrection of Christ was the birth of hope to earth's countless millions who were groping their way in darkness, and his ascension followed his resurrection as a necessary consequence. Why did our Lord ascend ? *As a completion of the remedial scheme.* He has now completed the circle of his mission. He laid aside the glory that he had with the Father, and came down to this earth and gave up his life as a sacrifice for our sins. Having accomplished the work his father gave him to do, he returns to report the result of his labors. His ascension, then, was the confirmation of his claims to the Messiahship. As the Great High Priest of our profession he entered into the Holy of Holies, and made atonement for the sins of all the people, and now he returns to his Father to complete the work of redemption. When Benjamin Franklin went to France as our Ambassador, his work had not been finished until he returned to the United States and reported the result of his labors. So Christ comes to die and rise again that he might win rebellious man back to God.

*Christ ascended that the Comforter might come.* "If I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you : but if I depart I will send him." God plans the scheme of human redemption : Christ executes the plan, and the Comforter applies the benefits of the plan to our hearts. Christ's ascension was the guarantee of the Spirit's descension. His going must precede the Spirit's coming. Every blessing must go up before it can come down. From every river that runs to the sea, from every lake upon whose placid bosom pleasure parties are sailing, from every ocean across whose waters the products of the continents are moving, there must go up the mists and vapors which form the clouds and which pour out their treasures upon our fields and forests, and which send the current of life bounding and leaping along the avenue of human endeavor. So Christ must ascend before the Spirit can come. The plan of redemption must

be completed before its gracious benefits can reach the human race. So, when he ascended he did not lose sight of our needs. He is our Saviour still. Like a train dispatcher, he knows the whereabouts of every soul.

*Christ must ascend to teach the world that he was a Spiritual Christ.*

Only a few moments before his ascension his disciples asked if he would not now restore Israel. In their dreams of fancy they looked for a temporal messiah who would give deliverance to the Jewish people, and establish an earthly kingdom that would challenge the admiration of the world. Not until he ascended did his disciples understand that he was a spiritual Savior—that his kingdom was not of this world—but was to be established in the heart. So he led his disciples out to Mt. Olivet, and ascended in their presence. On these cloud-bannered battlements, where the first sun-rays kiss the clouds into golden glories, God has always shown himself in power and glory. Here our Lord stands, and from this sacred spot he ascends.

“It was a golden eventide,  
The sun was sinking through the roseate clouds to rest  
Beneath the western waves—  
There opened a path of crystal glory.  
All perfumed with love and joy, such as heaven  
Had never known. But every eye rested  
Upon the Savior as He stood amongst  
The apostolic group, and lifted up  
His hands and blessed them, and in blessing rose.  
No wind, no car, no cherubim of fire  
Ministrant, in His Father's might, self-moved  
Into the glowing sky: until a cloud  
Far floating in the zenith, which had drunk  
Of the last sunbeams, wrapped his radiant form.  
And instantly became like light itself.  
And then as he went up they cried aloud  
And said, Lift up your heads, O! ye gates.  
Be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,  
Up, and the king of glory shall come in.  
Immediately, like an echo from those ranks  
Guarding the heavenly citadel the voice  
Of myriads perfectly attuned as one  
Came back the peal of joyful challenge. Who.  
Who is the king of glory? And from them  
The jubilant response, The Lord of hosts,  
Mighty in battle against the powers of hell,  
Jehovah. King of glory! Lift your heads!  
Be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors!  
Up, and the king of glory shall come in.  
Who is the king of glory? Yet again  
Pealed from those opening gates, The Lord of hosts!  
He is the king of glory broke once more  
In waves of thunder on those jasper walls  
Which never shook till now.”

What are the trophies of their toil? A soul rescued from sin. As he went up the angelic choir went out to greet him. Songs of triumph rolled in majestic splendor as our Lord assumes the mediatorial throne—and waves of glory started on their ceaseless rounds to bless the race of man.

*What are the Results of the Ascension? Christ has assumed regal dominion.* The years of his pilgrimage and warfare are ended, and he has sat down at the right hand of the Father! He is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. As the head of the Church, he has all power. Like a victorious conqueror he has led his followers to war and triumph, and in great joy he is leading them on to the conquest of the world. He assumes authority over the kingdom he came to establish, and he sways the jeweled sceptre of his love over every heart that owns him Lord.

#### HE IS OUR INTERCESSOR.

"He ever liveth to make intercession for us." He stands before the throne and pleads our cause.

"Five bleeding wounds he bears,  
Received on Cavalry --  
They prove effectual prayers --  
They strongly speak for me;  
Forgive him, oh! forgive, they cry  
Nor let the ransomed sinner die."

As he stands before Jehovah's awful throne he pleads our cause, and pardon and peace are given.

As the destiny of the Jewish people was suspended upon the tear of Moses when a little babe, so our destiny is suspended upon the personal presence and prayers of our Lord before the Father. Having completed the plan of redemption, he stands at the Father's side to send out the streams of blessing upon the world.

*Christ is coming to the earth again.* Standing upon Mt. Olivet and looking into the shining path which our Lord had left behind him as he went up, the disciples are lost in wonder and amazement. But they are assured that he is to return to make up his jewels. One of these bright days, when the glory of the Lord is wrapping this old earth in hallowed folds of love, Jesus is coming again to take us to live with him forever. I have thought of our Lord's love for this old earth, how he is going to visit it again. Our earth is but a grain of sand in all the universe of God, yet it remains the loved one among ten thousand suns and worlds because the feet of the blessed Jesus once pressed upon it.

While he tarries, we must carry this blessed gospel to all men. Our Order is devoted to the defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian religion. It is actuated by the spirit of Christ, and it must bear this message to earth's remotest bounds. This gospel is the priceless boon that has come to bless the race. On the wings of the wind it flies carrying the news of peace on earth and good will to man. It has planted the banner of the cross "on Ceylon's isle, where every prospect pleases and only man is vile." It has sent the genial rays of its love to warm the frozen summits of Greenland's icy mountains, and started the breezes of life and hope by Afric's sunny fountains. May God help us in our undertaking, and when our Lord shall come, may we be ready to greet him.

The usual collection was taken up for the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum, amounting to \$29.10.

The exercises were closed with music by the choir, and Benediction by the Grand Prelate.

On returning to the Asylum, the Grand Commandery adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

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### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Grand Commandery resumed labor at 2 o'clock P. M.

The R. E. Grand Commander addressed the Grand Commandery as follows :

### ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDER.

#### SIR KNIGHTS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI:

Another milestone in life's pilgrimage has been passed; another year has come and gone, freighted with joys and sorrows, cares and tribulations, and withal the infinite mercy that has followed and kept us through all its changing scenes.

To us, as Knights Templar, and as soldiers of the Cross of Christ, there should come a sense of obligation and profound gratitude to the Father of Mercies, for His watchful care and unvarying kindness to each one of us, during the year, and it is our first duty, as it has been our privilege, to render to Him that praise and adoration so eminently His due and so plainly our duty to accord.

The year has been, comparatively, uneventful. I am inclined to think, from the lights before me, that interest in the Order is on the increase, not only among its membership, but among the outside world.

The unprecedented depression in all lines of business, the scarcity of money and the unsettled situation of our financial interests, have had, no doubt, a tendency to reduce the number of applicants for the orders. While our harvests have been abundant, the prices obtained for the produce of our fields has been so small as to scarcely compensate for the expense of production, and this has been no small factor in producing the dormant condition in our institution. Let us hope that the New Year, upon which we are just entering, may, in God's providence, bring to each of us and to Templary in Mississippi, that measure of improvement and success which we so much desire.

On entering upon the duties assigned me by your suffrages, I was deeply impressed with the responsibilities of the work before me, and with profound gratitude for the confidence reposed, in according to me the highest honor within your gift, I assumed the duties of the office.

Succeeding, in this high office, the many who have presided before me, with such marked ability and success, I bespeak your kind forbearance and liberal aid in my earnest endeavor to carry out the rules and regulations calculated to enhance the harmony and expedite the business of

this our thirty-fifth annual conclave, while I promise to put forth my best efforts to accomplish that end and to deserve your good opinion. With these desires, then, I greet you.

#### NECROLOGY.

The Omnipotent, Almighty God, in His infinite mercy, causes my heart to feel grateful to be able to report that our lines, as a Grand Commandery, remain unbroken. That there are many from our subordinate Commanderies whom God has seen fit to call to their eternal home above. I have no doubt. Our excellent Grand Recorder will see to it that their names are inscribed in their proper place to be put away in the archives of this Grand Body.

Since we last met, in annual conclave, one with whom our associations have been uniformly pleasant and fraternal, and the lovable traits of whose character had endeared him to each and all of us, who were honored with his acquaintance, has doffed his armor, laid aside the cares of earth and entered the heavenly land. I refer to our late brother and Sir Knight, R. B. Brannin. Though not an officer of this Grand Body, his high connection and official position in the other bodies, as well as his worth, as a man and Mason, entitle him to this recognition at our hands. I will leave to abler hands than mine the melancholly duty of pronouncing the eulogy his merits demand.

To our sister Grand Commanderies we extend our sincere sympathy in their bereavements, many of the members of which have been called to their eternal home. I can only call your attention to those whose death has been brought to my notice officially.

Tennessee mourns the decease of the inimitable George Cooper Connor, P.G.C., and Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee, and Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Encampment of the United States, who died in Chattanooga, March 9th, 1894. Although I knew him not, except through his writings, I think I can bear witness to his genial nature, to his warm-hearted greetings and to his interest in all that pertained to the success of Freemasonry. Our Grand Recorder has already done honor to the memory of this noble knight in a memorial page in our last proceedings. At the base of the tablet we find these beautiful lines:

"A knightly name he leaves behind,  
Honored by all who knew him here;  
No spot upon his shield we find,  
No blemish on his sword or spear."

R. E. Sir John Frizzell, P.G.C., Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, died at his home in Nashville, November 30th, 1894.

R. E. P. G. Commander Pierre St. Medard Andrews died at his home in Norwich, Conn., June 22d, 1894.

E. Sir James M. Smith, Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, died October 5th, 1894.

Serious, indeed, was the affliction of our sister Grand Commandery of Connecticut, for again their lines are broken and their Grand Recorder

called hence. E. Sir Joseph K. Wheeler, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, died October 10th, 1894, at his home in Hartford.

E. Sir Edmund R. Hastings, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Alabama, died, December 21st, 1894.

#### DECISIONS.

I have been called upon for no decisions upon questions of law and usage, hence have nothing to report in this line.

#### VISITATIONS.

My professional duties have been such as to prevent my visiting any of the subordinate Commanderies in this Jurisdiction, excepting, of course, Rosalie, No. 5, my own Commandery. I received several cordial invitations, and my only regret is that I was so situated that I could not visit every Commandery in the State, and grasp the hand of every Sir Knight and bid him God-speed.

#### DISPENSATIONS.

For good and sufficient reasons I have granted dispensations, as follows :  
March 5th, to Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17, to attend Divine worship, in full dress uniform on Easter Sunday.

March 15, to same Command, to receive and ballot upon the petition of Comp. John J. McDonald, at a stated conclave, held March 22d.

March 21st, to Cyrene, No. 9, to attend Divine service in full dress uniform, on Easter Sunday.

April 30th, to Cyrene, No. 9, to receive and ballot on the petition of Comp. C. M. Rubish, at a special conclave.

May 28th, to Delta Commandery, No. 16, to ballot and confer the Orders upon Comp. Roberts, at a special conclave.

August 6th, to Cyrene, No. 9, to receive and ballot on the petition of Comp. A. B. Rogers, at a stated conclave.

October 8th, to same Command, to receive and ballot on the petitions of Companions W. F. Kennedy and T. C. Lyle.

November 16th, to same Command, to receive and ballot on the petitions of Companions Neville, Braham, Jones and Wilson, at a special conclave.

December 15th, to St. Elmo, U. D., to receive and ballot upon the petitions of Companions Elliott and Simmons, at a special conclave.

January 8th, 1895, to Cyrene, No. 9, to receive and ballot on the petition of Comp. E. E. Clement.

January 16th, 1895, to Cyrene, No. 9, to receive and ballot on the petition, for affiliation, of Rev. Sir Ebenezer Thompson, without delay.

#### NEW COMMANDERY.

On July 28th, I received a petition, signed by nine Sir Knights, residing in, or near Brookhaven, to grant a dispensation to establish a Com-

mandery, to be known as St. Elmo, in that city, which I granted July 30th, and delegated Grand Recorder J. L. Power to act for me at the opening of the new Commandery, and which duty, I presume, was faithfully performed. The following were named as officers of the Commandery:

J. E. Seavey, E. C.; Hugh McColgan, Generalissimo; G. C. Hoskins, Captain General; H. K. Hill, Prelate; Jas. A. Hoskins, Sen. Warden; A. J. Whitworth, Jun. Warden; T. O. Watkins, Treasurer; J. B. Tenant, Recorder; C. Heuck, Sentinel.

In connection with the above, I issued the following special dispensation:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Know ye, that we, J. C. French, R. E. Grand Commander of Knights Templar, of the State of Mississippi, having received a petition from nine Sir Knights, who will organize a new Commandery in Brookhaven, to be named St. Elmo, on or about August 11th, 1894, to receive and ballot upon petitions of five Companions, and confer the Orders on the afternoon and night of the day of organization and requesting a dispensation therefor; and whereas, there appears to us no good and sufficient reason for refusing the prayer of said petitioners, we, therefore, by virtue of the authority and powers in us vested by the Constitution of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, do grant this, our special dispensation, permitting said petitioners to receive and act upon the petitions of five or more Companions and confer the Orders on the same day.

Given under our hand and the Seal of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of Mississippi, at Natchez, this 30th day of July, 1894, A. O., 776.

J. C. FRENCH.  
Grand Commander.

Attest:

J. L. POWER,  
Grand Recorder.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I believe it is in order, and perhaps not inappropriate, to make such suggestions as occur to my mind, calculated to perpetuate our Order, extend its influence and increase its usefulness. In our own Jurisdiction I have nothing to recommend, except that a strenuous effort be put forth to secure as large an attendance from this State at the Triennial, in August next, as possible, and that the committee having the matter in charge, be urged to adopt such measures as will best tend to that end and furnish the necessary funds to enable old Mississippi to reciprocate, in a becoming manner, the hospitalities of which she will be the recipient at the "Hub."

It has been the custom, in this jurisdiction, for a number of years, not to allow the officers of the Grand Commandery any compensation for their attendance at the annual conclaves, and this system, it seems to me, is unjust and should be abolished. In most of our sister jurisdictions, it is the custom to pay its officers and representatives mileage and per diem, or their actual expenses, while in some, the Grand Commander is allowed a stated sum for expenses incidental to his office.

While in our present impoverished condition, I would not recommend the adoption of the latter clause, yet in my opinion, it would be but fair



to allow the four first officers their actual expenses, where they are not representatives of their Commandery, and I hope that the old rule in this regard may be re-enacted. As the change will, in no manner, affect myself, the Grand Commandery will acquit me of any selfish motive in making the suggestion.

#### THE ALABAMA RESOLUTIONS.

I am pleased to note that several of the Grand Commanderies have endorsed the resolutions adopted by the Grand Commandery of Alabama, in reference to the desecration of our sacred symbols, by saloonists, on Triennial occasions, and respectfully suggest that like action be taken by us, with the additional proviso, that the local Commanderies in Boston, as well as the Grand Master of Templars, be requested to use all lawful means to prevent the scandal. A copy of the Alabama resolutions is appended for your information :

"WHEREAS, The Grand Commandery of Alabama remembers with sorrow, that the Cross, the symbol of our faith, was displayed on the doors of saloons at the Triennial Conclave, held in Denver, in 1892, and at other Conclaves:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Grand Commandery of Alabama, earnestly petitions Grand Master Hugh McCurdy, to use his influence to prevent the unseemly use of the Cross at the next Triennial Conclave, to be held in Boston.

RESOLVED 2. That these resolutions be sent to the M. E. Grand Master by the R. E. Grand Commander of Alabama, together with such memorial letter, going to emphasize the sentiments of this Grand Commandery, as he may deem expedient."

On the 12th of March, I received the following courteous letter, extending a cordial invitation to the officers of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, to attend their annual Conclave at Austin, April 4th. I copy the letter and my response, which are as follows :

DALLAS, TEXAS, March 7th, 1894.

SIR J. C. FRENCH, Grand Commander, Natchez, Miss.

DEAR SIR AND FRATER:- Permit me to extend to you and all the Grand Officers of the R. E. Grand Commandery K. T. of Mississippian invitation to be present at the next annual Conclave of the R. E. Grand Commandery of Texas, the same to convene April 4th, in the city of Austin. We are anticipating a large attendance, and I will assure a nice time as well as a pleasant visit. Send me your last proceedings, that I may be able to make my report at our next meeting, in Austin, as your Grand Representative. If you have anything special, please advise me.

With very great respect and fraternal greetings.

(signed) CHAS. HOTCHKISS.

Grand Representative.

#### REPLY.

SIR CHAS. ALBERT HOTCHKISS, Grand Representative, Dallas, Texas.

MY DEAR SIR & FRATER:-I have the honor to own receipt of your polite, appreciated and courteous invitation to the Grand Officers of this jurisdiction, to attend the annual session of the Grand Commandery of Texas, to be held on the 4th prox., to say, in reply, that while it would afford us much pleasure to be with you on that occasion, that business engagements and the cares of life will operate as a bar, and we are com-

pelled to decline. Our inability to accept, however, in no sense detracts from our appreciation of your thoughtful kindness and the weight of gratitude we feel therefor.

Kindly convey to the Grand Commandery of Texas, its officers and members, the assurance of the same kindly and fraternal sentiment we have always felt for our Fraters of the Lone Star State, together with the expression of our fervent hope, that these pleasant relations may never be disturbed or broken.

Our recent session was uneventful. As soon as the proceedings come from the printers, you shall have a copy.

Renewing our thanks and fraternal sentiments, and with personal regards for yourself and family, I beg to remain, dear Frater.

Courteously and fraternally yours,

J. C. FRENCH.

Grand Commander of Mississippi.

### CHRISTMAS LIBATION.

On December 1st I find the following circular letter :

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI. /  
OFFICE OF THE GRAND COMMANDER, /  
NATCHEZ, MISS., December 1, 1894. }

To the Eminent Commanders and Members of the Subordinate Commanderies of Mississippi :

DEAR SIR KNIGHTS :

The observance of the Christmas Libation having been endorsed by the Grand Encampment and made venerable by long use, and the Committee having the matter in hand, having voiced a sentiment for that occasion, reply to which has been made by the M. E. The Grand Master, Sir Hugh McCurdy, copies of which are hereto attached ; and as it is eminently proper, mete and right that Templars should at all times and under all circumstances have in grateful remembrance the birth, life, death and ascension of our Lord, I courteously recommend that each command in this Jurisdiction assemble in their Asylum, on the 25th inst., CHRISTMAS, there to participate in the Christmas Libation, renew and strengthen the ties of fraternity and courtesy.

If possible, I recommend that religious services appropriate to the day, be held, prior to or subsequent to the ceremonies of the Libation, either in the Asylum or in church. Eminent Commanders are charged with the execution of these suggestions.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, this 1st day of December.  
[SEAL. A. D., 1894. A. O. 776.

J. C. FRENCH, Grand Commander.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, U. S. A. /  
OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE. /  
PORTLAND, MAINE, October 10, 1894. }

DEAR FRATER :

The following has been prepared for the coming Christmas :

To our Most Eminent Grand Master, HUGH MCCURDY : the head of American Templar Masonry, who holds all Templar hearts.

The Grand Master sends the following response :

To the great heart of Templar Masonry, and to every Templar Mason's heart—one and inseparable.

" 'Tis the heart and not the brain,  
That to the highest doth attain.  
And he who followeth love's behest,  
Far excelleth all the rest."

Will you join in these sentiments on Tuesday, December 25th, at noon, Eastern Standard time, (equivalent to 5 P. M., Greenwich) and will you extend the invitation to your command, as well as to all true Templars and their friends, wheresoever dispersed, on land or sea.

Courteously and fraternally yours,

STEPHEN BERRY, Committee.  
Portland, Maine.

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Pacific Standard Time .....	120° W.	9 A. M.
Mountain Standard Time .....	105° W.	10 A. M.
Central Standard Time.....	90° W.	11 A. M.
Eastern Standard Time.....	75° W.	12 M.
Greenwich Time.....	0°	5 P. M.

My attention has been called by Sir Power to the fact that at the session of this Grand Body at Vicksburg, in 1878, the then Grand Commander, R. E. Sir W. A. Fairchild, presented a gavel to the body, made of wood from Mamre and Mount Olivet, in the following language:

"In retiring from this high and responsible position, I beg leave to present the Grand Commandery this gavel, made of wood, from Mamre and Mount Olivet. Inscription on the handle, Mamre; on the head, Hatzethim. In surrendering this emblem of authority to my successor, it is with deep gratitude for the honor you conferred upon me at our last conclave, and which will ever be held in grateful remembrance."

The gavel was accepted in a report of a special committee to whom the matter was referred—proceedings 1878, page 28.

The fact that the fall of that same year was distinguished by an epidemic of yellow fever, that swept over the entire South, and left death and sorrow in its path, and the further fact that Sir Fairchild and the lamented Walter gave their lives as a sacrifice on the altar of Christian duty in that fearful time, makes the mention of their names and the recollection of their heroic deeds to cause a thrill of honest pride to pass through our hearts, that Masonry and Knighthood, in Mississippi, had such exponents as they proved themselves to be. Others equally brave, zealous, faithful and devoted there were, who, in God's providence, passed through the ordeal and are among us today. Our good brother, P. G. Commander W. G. Paxton, at that time G. C., never deserted his post or faltered a moment amid the trying scenes and experiences that each day brought in review before him. There are others, doubtless, who equally deserve the mede of praise, but to our acquaintance unknown.

To the lamented dead and heroic survivors of that dread siege, we are indebted for the highest exposition of the capabilities of man in the direction of unselfish devotion in the hour of danger and death. It is needless for me, as a stranger to them, to eulogize the lives and char-

acters of such heroes as Walter and Fairchild. You all knew and honor them and their memories as they deserve, but it is as well to occasionally recall such episodes as the one in question as an incentive to higher, better and nobler aspirations in the hearts of the successors of these eminent men.

Sir Power also suggests, and the suggestion meets my hearty approval, as I doubt not it will yours, that the gavel be transmitted from Commander to Commander, and let it be used in the government of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi until it is worn out.

#### CONCLUSION.

Such is, in brief, an epitome of my official acts and deliverances. Though the position of Grand Commander in our Jurisdiction is conspicuous for its paucity of incident and barrenness of exciting episodes, it was with a feeling of distrust of my own ability that I entered upon the discharge of the functions of the office.

In retiring from the proud position to which I was called by your preference, all undeserved as it may have been, I carry with me the innate consciousness of having discharged its duties with an eye single to the best interests of Templar Masonry in Mississippi, and it has been my most ardent wish at all times to subserve the highest good of our beloved Order. Whether I have succeeded or failed, is for you to judge.

I am indebted to the officers of my staff for uniform courtesy and the kindest consideration, and to our beloved Grand Recorder, Power, for material aid and assistance.

I would here express a debt of gratitude to our beloved Sir Enoch George DeLap for counsel given me, during my term of office, and for the able reports he makes in his annual work on Foreign Correspondence.

Although at times he struts out and shows pugilistic tendencies, I can assure his fellow-correspondents that he would not willingly, or knowingly, injure a hair in any human's head, much less wound the heart. Although fearless in argument and one who dares to do and say, as he thinks right, his heart is as big as that of an ox, as all you, who know him, can testify.

Renewing my grateful thanks to those named and to the entire craft, let us now, with an earnest prayer for the prosperity, glory and greatness of the Order of the Temple everywhere, and especially in our own grand old commonwealth, and for the happiness of each member of this Grand Body, proceed to the regular business of the Conclave.

J. C. FRENCH,

Grand Commander.

On motion of Sir Wm. G. Paxton, the Address was ordered spread upon the minutes, and referred as follows:

1. So much as refers to State of the Order, recommendations as to next Triennial, expenses of Grand Officers attending Annual Conclave, and invitation from Grand Commandery of Texas, to a special committee of three.
2. So much as refers to Necrology, to a special committee of three.

3. So much as refers to Dispensations for new Commandery, to the special committee already appointed.

4. So much as refers to the Alabama Resolutions, to the Committee on Templar Law.

5. So much as refers to Christmas Libation, to a special committee of three.

6. So much as refers to the gavel presented by Grand Commander Fairchild, 1878, to a special committee of three.

The Deputy Grand Commander thereupon announced the committees provided for as follows :

No. 1—William Starling, J. H. Wright, W. G. Sykes.

No. 2—W. B. Walker, N. G. Augustus, P. M. Savery.

No. 5—B. A. Weaver, Nolan Stewart, W. X. Wilson.

No. 6—W. G. Paxton, Jno. A. B. Jones, J. L. Power.

Sir W. B. Walker offered the following, which was adopted :

**RESOLVED**, That the thanks of this Grand Commandery are hereby tendered to the Baptist Congregation of West Point for the use of their church for our Devotional Offices : also, to Rev. J. L. Sproles, and Messrs. C. S. Jones, H. L. Joiner and J. H. Carlisle, for music rendered on that occasion.

#### **TEMPLAR BURIAL SERVICE.**

The following was offered by Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed, and adopted :

**RESOLVED**, That the following shortened form of service, to be used at the funeral of a Knight, when the Lodge service is also to be used, be adopted for use in this jurisdiction :

#### **KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SERVICE AT THE GRAVE.**

The coffin being placed over the grave, with the deceased Sir Knight's sword lying upon it with the hilt toward the foot of the coffin, Prelate standing at the foot, Eminent Commander at the head, Captain-General on the left, and Generalissimo at the right, all forming a cross, the Prelate will say the following, or another, short prayer :

ALMIGHTY GOD, with whom do live the souls of the faithful after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, grant that we may so follow their good examples, that with them, we may be partakers of the perpetual rest and felicity which await all those who love and serve Thee, in the day when Emanuel shall say, "Come ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Grant this, oh ! Heavenly Father, through the merits and mediation of the Great Captain of our salvation, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

After taking the sword and drawing it from the scabbard, holding it with point down, hilt raised, the Prelate will say :

"BY THE CROSS UPON ITS HILT, I DECLARE THAT THIS SWORD IS WITHOUT A STAIN."

The Captain-General receiving the sword from the Prelate, holding it by the hilt, extended to the front, the blade flatwise, shall say :

"I DECLARE THAT IN THIS SWORD THE BLADE OF JUSTICE IS WITHOUT A SPOT."

Generalissimo, receiving the sword from the Captain General, holding it by the hilt, blade extended to the front, edge uppermost, shall say :

"I DECLARE THAT IN THIS SWORD THE EDGE OF TRUTH IS WITHOUT A FLAW."

The Eminent Commander, receiving the sword from the Generalissimo, holding it with the forefinger of the left hand upon the point, and grasping the hilt with the right, shall say :

"UPON THE POINT OF MERCY, I DECLARE THAT THIS IS THE SWORD OF A GOOD AND TRUE KNIGHT TEMPLAR."

The Prelate, receiving the sword back from the Eminent Commander, shall say :

"BRETHREN OF ——— LODGE, WE COMMIT TO YOU THE BODY OF OUR DECEASED COMPANION AND FRATER FOR MASQUIC INTERMENT."

The Grand Recorder submitted his Annual Report, as follows :

#### **REPORT OF GRAND RECORDER.**

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI:

In submitting my TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT as Grand Recorder, I take occasion, in the first place, to acknowledge my profound gratitude to Him who is the giver and taker of life, for His tender care and loving kindness, not only in sparing me through all these years, but that I have been able to sustain such pleasant relations to fraters and friends representing the best types of humanity. During this quarter of a century, I have received nothing but kindness and courtesy at the hands of every Grand Officer, and of every individual Sir Knight in the jurisdiction, and it has been my earnest desire, at all times, to manifest my appreciation. This elegant jewel that I wear, and your vote making me a Life Honorary Past Grand Commander, are the outward expressions of your fraternal regard, but it is your uniform personal courtesies that have lightened my labors, and that will brighten my pathway till the end of life's pilgrimage. But while I and a few others have been spared, to meet annually, during all these years, how many!—alas, how many!—have gone to that bourne whence no traveler returns! From the roll of Templars in Mississippi, during the last twenty-five years, the names of 195 have been erased by the death angel, but their lives and memories still

"Breathe fragrance like the rose."

And of those valiant and magnanimous Knights, who have been called to the highest station in this Grand Jurisdiction, twelve have been called still higher, and when I mention their names in the order in which they passed away, what loving recollections will come to some who listen to this retrospect :

Giles M. Hillyer, Chas. Terrell Bond, Harvey W. Walter, Wm. A. Fairchild, Edward Lea, C. A. Manlove, E. T. Henry, Fleet C. Mercer, Wm. French, Wm. S. Patton, J. E. Leigh, Wm. P. Towler; and others equally as valiant and true, who have graced the several stations in this Grand Body, and who were pillars of strength and wisdom in their respec-

tive Asylums, have crossed over the river and are resting, we trust, under the shade of the trees, in the encampment of life eternal. And so dear, Fraters, let these

Flying months and years remind us  
Of the world we're passing to.  
Let us leave good deeds behind us  
In the world we're passing through :  
Which shall be the deeds of kindness  
Watered by celestial dew.  
And shall bear good fruits for others.  
Fruits of joy and peace and love.  
Years long after we are singing  
In the immortal land above.

A summary of the gains and losses for the last twenty-five years, 1870 to 1894, inclusive, shows the following interesting figures :

Knighted .....	811
Affiliated .....	87
Reinstated .....	97
Suspended for non-payment of dues .....	315
Suspended for unmasonic conduct, in Lodge .....	5
Expelled .....	3
Dimitted .....	255
Died .....	195

All the Commanderies have filed Reports for 1894, and the following is a summary of the gains and losses for the year:

COMMANDERIES.	No.	Knighted.	Affiliated.	Reinstated.	Dimitted.	Died.	Suspended, Dues.	Expelled.	Total Members.	Total Dues.
Mississippi.....	1	4	.....	1	5	.....	.....	.....	30	\$ 50 00
Magnolia.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	59	59 00
Holly Springs.....	4	6	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	25	55 00
Rosalie.....	5	3	1	.....	.....	2	9	1	53	78 00
St. Cyr.....	6	4	1	.....	.....	2	2	.....	49	69 00
DeMolay.....	8	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	37 00
Cyrene.....	9	18	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	58	146 00
Ivanhoe.....	10	4	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	43	63 00
Cœur de Lion.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	11	11 00
Delta.....	16	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	20	35 00
Aberdeen.....	17	3	.....	.....	.....	2	4	.....	27	42 00
St. Elmo.....	U.D	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	70 00
		60	3	2	5	9	20	1	430	\$715 00

St. Elmo Commandery was organized at Brookhaven, August 11, under dispensation granted by Grand Commander, July 11. Quite a number of Sir Knights from Water Valley and Jackson assisted in the organization, and were the recipients of many gracious courtesies from the Fraters at

Brookhaven. St. Elmo bids fair to be one of the strongest Commanderies in our jurisdiction, and will for many years occupy the territory between Jackson and Osyka.

But for the fire that destroyed the Masonic hall at Biloxi, a Commandery would have been organized at Biloxi during the year. Freemasonry on the Coast is keeping fully abreast with the general development of that interesting section of our Commonwealth, through such intelligent and zealous fraters and brethren, as Evans, McLeod, Howze, Wood, McOr-mick, Thompson and others.

The receipts for the year are as follows:

Mississippi, No. 1—Dues 1893.....	\$42 00
Magnolia, No. 2—Dues 1893.....	71 00
Holly Springs, No. 4—Dues 1893.....	45 00
Rosalie, No. 5—Dues 1893.....	86 00
St. Cyr, No. 6—Dues 1893.....	73 00
DeMolay, No. 8—Dues 1893.....	41 00
Cyrene, No. 9—Dues 1893.....	68 00
Ivanhoe, No. 9—Dues 1893.....	84 00
Cœur de Lion, No. 13—Dues 1893.....	12 00
Delta, No. 16—Dues 1893.....	18 00
Aberdeen, No. 17—Dues 1893.....	90 00
St. Elmo, U. D.—Dispensation Fee.....	90 00
R. P. Lake—late Grenada Commandery, No. 15.....	2 00
Jas. T. Meade—late Lexington Commandery, No. 3.....	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$739 00

Pursuant to a resolution, adopted in 1892, that "in every year in which the condition of our treasury justifies, the sum of twenty-five dollars be appropriated to the Protestant Orphan Asylum, at Natchez," that amount was sent the Treasurer for 1894, and her grateful acknowledgment is on file.

#### THE NEXT TRIENNIAL

of the Grand Encampment, in Boston, in August, promises to be the most notable demonstration of the Order in its history. At our Conclave, in 1893, the following were appointed a committee, to make all arrangements for transportation, quarters, etc., for the Knights of this Grand Jurisdiction who may attend the Triennial: J. L. Power, J. J. Hays, J. C. French, Jas. T. Harrison, G. Smalshaf, W. A. Bodenhamer, Wm. G. Sykes, Wm. Cross. As yet nothing has been done, the committee not seeing its way clear to incur obligations that it might not be able to meet. In behalf of the committee, I suggest that the Grand Commandery make as generous an appropriation as possible, and that the several Commanderies be requested to contribute, on a per capita basis. The indications are that several of our Commanderies will make the pilgrimage in good force, and that a sufficient number will go to justify the chartering of two or three Pullmans; but the general expense will be in headquarters, and in the ability to extend, as well as to receive. Knightly courtesies and hospitalities. Those of us who were at Denver, in 1892, realized the disadvantage of a depleted exchequer, and had it not been for the splendid band secured by Sir Knight Hays, and his skillful



management, generally, the presence of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi would scarcely have been felt. As it was, we managed to let everybody know that we were in the procession, and able to take care of ourselves.

#### DEATH OF GRAND RECORDERS.

An unusually large number of Grand Recorders and Grand Secretaries died during the past year. Some of these will be suitably mentioned in the other Grand Bodies.

George Cooper Conner, Grand Recorder of Tennessee, died March 9.

Joseph K. Wheeler, Grand Recorder of Connecticut, died October 10.

Robert Macoy, Grand Recorder of New York, died January 10, 1895.

The last named was the senior in service, and headed the roster of Grand Recorders. This writer was the third from the head, when, in July last, he called on Sir Macoy, and we discussed how near we both were to the landing, and how soon we would reach the "other shore."

The Grand Commandery, I am sure, will appreciate this extract from the last report of Sir Macoy to his Grand Commandery in September:

"As I look back over the road I have traveled, I regard the years nearly half a century—that I have spent in the service of Templarism, as the most useful and happiest of my life. Many of those who were with me at the start, have crossed the silent river and await our coming on the other side. One thing impresses me as I look over the long list of Sir Knights, in which are concentrated the friendships of a life, that they were the manliest men I ever knew. They have left behind the sweet savor of blessed and happy memories, which are among the richest of life's golden treasures. I have watched many of my knightly brothers, when they were called to bear life's last and supremest trials, and never until then, when the eye grew dim and the heart beat faintly, did I fully appreciate the refulgent glory of the Templar's motto and sign. Before the eyes of the dying Knights was the glorious emblem of salvation, the Cross, and above it, emblazoned in letters of gold, "BY THIS SIGN WE SHALL CONQUER."

#### GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

March 19—Forwarded to Grand Commander Grand Commandery of Washington, the request of the R. E. Grand Commander, that Sir W. B. Walker be commissioned a Representative of that Grand Commandery, in place of Sir King Dorwart, removed from State.

April 23—Received commission for Sir Emmett N. Thomas, Greenville, as Representative Grand Commandery of Nebraska.

March 27—Received of Sir W. B. Walker, check for \$13.40, Easter Offering, Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17, and forwarded same, as requested, to Treasurer Protestant Orphan Asylum, at Natchez.

The per capita tax to Grand Encampment for 1894, \$19.35, was paid December 10.

Certificates were issued, May 28, to Past Grand Commander Jas. T. Meade, as member of late Lexington Commandery, No. 3; December 5,

to R. P. Lake, late Grenada Commandery, No. 15, thus enabling them to affiliate with the Commanderies where they reside at present.

Courteously submitted.

J. L. POWER.  
Grand Recorder.

The Grand Treasurer submitted his Annual Report, as follows :

#### REPORT OF GRAND TREASURER.

GUS J. BAHIN.

*In Account with the Grand Commandery of Mississippi:*

1894.	DR.	
Feb. 13--To balance this date.....		\$105.79
1895.		
Feb. 12 -To cash of Grand Recorder to date.....		739.00
		<hr/> \$844.79

CR.

W. B. Taylor, Mississippi Commandery, No. 1.....	\$	2 50
Frederic Speed, Magnolia Commandery, No. 2.....		15 00
C. F. Merrick, Rosalie Commandery No. 5.....		25 00
T. B. Franklin, DeMolay Commandery, No. 8.....		14 30
J. M. Buchanan, Cyrene Commandery, No. 9.....		12 00
N. G. Augustus, Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10.....		7 00
Cœur DeLion Commandery, No. 13.....		12 00
Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17.....		7 85
E. G. DeLap, Foreign Correspondence.....		50 00
Gus J. Bahin, Salary, 1894, No. 1.....		25 00
Protestant Orphan Asylum, No. 2.....		25 00
Postage and Express, No. 3.....		21 25
Grand Encampment Dues, 1894, No. 4.....		19 35
Proceedings and other printing, No. 5.....		203 00
Grand Recorder, salary, 1894, No. 6.....		100 00

Total.....		\$539 75
1895.		
Feb. 12--In Treasury this date.....		305 04

Total.....		\$844 79
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G. J. BAHIN, Grand Treasurer.

On motion, the reports of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer were referred to the Finance Committee.

Past Grand Commander E. G. DeLap submitted his Annual Report on Fraternal Correspondence, which was received and ordered published with the proceedings.

#### CHARTER GRANTED.

The following report was submitted and adopted:

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY:

Your Committee, on the petition of St. Elmo Commandery, U. D., Brookhaven, report, that we have examined their minutes and statement of work done, and find them very satisfactory, neat and orderly, and we heartily recommend that a Charter be granted.

Fraternally submitted.

JNO. S. COBB;  
J. FOGGO DIXON,  
B. A. VAUGHAN,  
Committee.

Sir W. B. Walker offered the following, which was adopted:

**RESOLVED.** That the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir T. W. Lewis, be requested to furnish his discourse at Devotional Service, for publication with the proceedings.

Sir Wm. Starling, for Finance Committee, reported that the accounts and vouchers of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer had been "examined and found correct." Report adopted.

#### ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS.

The Grand Commandery then proceeded to the election of Grand Officers, resulting as follows:

SIR F. P. JINKINS.....	Aberdeen.....	Grand Commander.
SIR J. M. BUCHANAN.....	Meridian.....	Dep. Grand Commander.
SIR JAS. T. HARRISON.....	Columbus.....	Grand Generalissimo.
SIR W. B. WALKER.....	Aberdeen.....	Grand Captain-General.
REV. SIR T. W. LEWIS.....	Grenada.....	Grand Prelate.
SIR WILLIAM STARLING....	Greenville.....	Grand Senior Warden.
SIR JOHN S. COBB.....	Verona.....	Grand Junior Warden.
SIR G. J. BAHIN.....	Natchez.....	Grand Treasurer.
SIR J. L. POWER.....	Jackson.....	Grand Recorder.
SIR J. W. KEYES.....	Tupelo.....	Grand Standard Bearer.
SIR J. F. DIXON.....	Natchez.....	Grand Sword Bearer.
SIR GEO. C. HOSKINS.....	Brookhaven.....	Grand Warder.

On motion of Grand Recorder, the Grand Commander is authorized to appoint the Grand Sentinel from the Commandery with which the Grand Commandery decides to hold its next Annual Conclave.

The Grand Commandery, at 4 o'clock P. M., adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

## SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, February 13, 1895.

The Grand Commandery resumed business at 9 o'clock this morning.

The following report was submitted and adopted:

TO THE R. E. GRAND COMMANDERY:

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Right Eminent, the Grand Commander's Address as relates to the Christmas Libation, beg leave to report that we consider the introduction of this beautiful and impressive ceremony in commemoration of our Lord and Saviour most appropriate, and heartily endorse all that our Right Eminent Grand Commander has recommended in this regard.

Courteously submitted.

B. A. WEAVER,  
NOLAN STEWART.  
W. X. WILSON,  
Committee.

Past Grand Commander B. A. Vaughan moved to reduce the minimum fees for the Orders from \$40 to \$25. After some discussion, the motion was lost by a large majority.

### THE KNIGHTLY DEAD.

The Committee on Necrology submitted the following report, which was adopted :

#### TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY :

Your Committee on Necrology beg leave to report that they adopt the knightly and courteous language of the Grand Commander's address touching the death of Sir Knights of this jurisdiction during the past year. We find the following Sir Knights since our last Conclave have sheathed their swords and are now bivouacked "beyond the night."

Robert McGowan--Holly Springs. No. 4.

Thomas Grafton, Robert S. Dixon--Rosalie. No. 5.

W. W. Becton, W. T. Wynn--St. Cyr. No. 6.

Thos. H. Williams--Ivanhoe. No. 10.

S. M. Briscoe--Cœur DeLion. No. 13.

R. B. Brannin, R. A. Honea--Aberdeen. No. 17.

We recommend that Grand Recorder procure a photo-engraving of our lamented frater, Robert B. Brannin, and place the same as frontispiece in the proceedings of this Grand Conclave.

We also recommend that Grand Recorder prepare memorial pages in the proceedings of this Conclave, dedicated to those departed Fraters.

Courteously submitted.

W. B. WALKER.

P. M. SAVERY.

N. G. AUGUSTUS.

Committee.

On motion of Grand Recorder, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars was appropriated toward expenses of this Grand Commandery at the Triennial, in August next.

The following report was submitted and adopted :

#### TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY :

Your committee to whom was referred that portion of the R. E. Grand Commander's address, referring to the Gavel, formed of wood of olive, and bearing the appropriate inscriptions, Mamre and Hatzethim, most heartily endorse the recommendations of the Grand Commander, that it be transmitted to the several Grand Commanders, and confidence is felt that as the history of the Gavel and its donor shall become known to the Sir Knights at large, especially as applying to our younger Fraters, they may ever find incentive to high endeavor.

W. G. PAXTON.

J. A. B. JONES.

J. L. POWER.

Committee.

The Grand Officers elect were then duly installed by Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed; after which, Grand Commandery adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

## THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, February 14, 1895.

Grand Commandery met pursuant to adjournment, at 9 o'clock this morning.

Sir W. B. Walker offered the following, which was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, That the time and place of next Conclave be left to the discretion of the Grand Commander, provided the Communication of Grand Lodge shall be held at a place where no Commandery is stationed: otherwise, during same week as Grand Lodge, and on such day as Grand Commander may indicate.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPLAR LAW.

The following report was submitted and adopted:

#### TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY:

The Committee on Templar Law, to whom was referred so much of the Right Eminent, the Grand Commander's address, as refers to dispensations granted by him, beg leave to recommend that the same be approved, with the exception hereafter noted, it being understood, though the Grand Commander fails to so state, that in all instances Section 21, of Title XLV, of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment was complied with by the Commandery in whose favor the dispensations were granted, having voted to ask for the same.

The exception made, in which we feel compelled to withhold a recommendation for approval, is in the instance of the dispensation to the Knights who were about to organize a Commandery at Brookhaven, it being manifest that at the time the dispensation was granted, there was no Commandery to ask for a dispensation "to receive and ballot upon the petitions of five Companions and confer the orders on the afternoon and night of the day of organization." The fact that a Commandery Under Dispensation was about to be organized, did not warrant the issuance of the dispensation, because such a dispensation can be granted only when a Commandery votes to ask for it, and until the Commandery was organized was there no foundation upon which to base the application. It amounted to no more than giving any nine Knights, who might assemble, permission to confer the orders upon whom they pleased. The Statutes presume that before a dispensation to shorten the time in which a petition for the orders shall lie over, is granted, that there shall have been a petition regularly presented. This being done, the Commandery may, by a majority vote, ask for a dispensation to shorten the time to less than the four weeks, which Section 14 of Title XLV requires shall elapse between the presentation of a petition and the ballot upon the same.

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED.

W. G. PAXTON.

P. M. SAVERY.

Committee.

The same Committee also approved of Grand Commander's recommendations as to the Alabama resolutions, and the same was agreed to.

### TRIENNIAL GRAND CONCLAVE.

The following report was submitted and adopted:

#### TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY:

The Special Committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand

Commanders's report as refers to the next Triennial and the State of the Order, respectfully report:

Your Committee recommend that the Committee on the Triennial, under the direction of the Grand Commander, be requested and empowered to take such steps as may seem to them proper and expedient to have the Grand Commandery of Mississippi represented at the Triennial Conclave.

As to the recommendation of the Grand Commander to pay mileage and per diem to the four principal officers of the Grand Commandery, your Committee report that in their opinion it is inexpedient to take action at the present time.

WM. STARLING, for Committee.

Sir T. B. Franklin offered the following, which was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, That Grand Commandery of Mississippi desires to express its appreciation and thanks for the use of the rooms tendered by the Y. M. C. A. of the city of West Point.

**RESOLVED** 2nd, That the Grand Treasurer be instructed to pay to the proper officer of the Y. M. C. A. the sum of \$10 00, to be used in restoring rooms to proper condition.

Sir Frederic Speed offered the following, which was adopted :

**RESOLVED**, That the sum of five dollars be appropriated to the Masonic Collectors' Association, of which Past Grand Master James<sup>W</sup>. Staton, of Kentucky, is President, and Past Grand Master S. Stacker Williams, of Ohio, is Secretary, to aid said Association in the work of building up Masonic Libraries by the preservation of Masonic literature, proceedings, etc., for the current year, and one dollar a year hereafter until the further order of this Grand Body.

Past Grand Commander Wm. G. Paxton offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

**RESOLVED**, That the thanks of the Grand Commandery are earnestly due, and are hereby tendered to the retiring Grand Commander, R. E. French, for his able, zealous and most satisfactory administration of his office.

Sir T. B. Franklin offered the following, which was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, That our Reverend Prelate, Sir T. W. Lewis, be requested to attend the Triennial as the guest of the Grand Commandery.

The Grand Commander announced the following

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

**TEMPLAR LAW**—Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg; Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Vicksburg; P. M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.

**FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE**—E. Geo. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez.

The Grand Commandery then closed its Thirty-Fifth Annual Conclave in Solemn and Knightly Form.

**F. P. JINKINS,**

GRAND COMMANDER.

ATTEST:



GRAND RECORDER.

1895

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F. P. JINKINS

Commanders's report as refers to the next Triennial and the State of the Order, respectfully report:

Your Committee recommend that the Committee on the Triennial, under the direction of the Grand Commander, be requested and empowered to take such steps as may seem to them proper and expedient to have the Grand Commandery of Mississippi represented at the Triennial Conclave.

As to the recommendation of the Grand Commander to pay mileage and per diem to the four principal officers of the Grand Commandery, your Committee report that in their opinion it is imprudent to take action at the present time. W. M. STANLEY, for Committee.

Sir T. B. Franklin offered the following, which was adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Grand Commandery of Mississippi desires to express its appreciation and thanks for the use of the rooms tendered by the Y. M. C. A. of the city of West Point.

RESOLVED 2nd, That the Grand Treasurer be instructed to pay to the proper officer of the Y. M. C. A. the sum of \$10.00 to be used in restoring rooms to proper condition.

Sir Frederic Speed offered the following, which was adopted:

RESOLVED, That the sum of five dollars be appropriated to the Masonic Collectors' Association, of which Past Grand Master James W. Staton, of Kentucky, is President, and Past Grand Master S. Staeger Williams, of Ohio, is Secretary, to aid said Association in the work of building up Masonic Libraries by the preservation of Masonic literature, proceedings, &c., for the current year, and one calendar year hereafter until the further order of this Grand Body.

Past Grand Commander Wm. G. Paxton offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of the Grand Commandery are ever due, and are hereby tendered to the retiring Grand Commander, M. E. C. Sir J. C. French, for his able, zealous and most satisfactory administration of his office.

Sir T. B. Franklin offered the following, which was adopted:

RESOLVED, That our Reverend Prelate, Sir T. W. Lewis, be requested to attend the Triennial as the guest of the Grand Commandery.

The Grand Commander announced the following:

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCIAL, Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg; Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Memphis; M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.

CORRESPONDENCE, E. Geo. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez.

The Grand Commandery then closed its Thirty Fifth Annual Conclave with a brightly Form.

**F. P. JINKINS,**

GRAND COMMANDER.

*J. L. Power*

GRAND RECORDER.





F. P. JINKINS.



# RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 27, 1894,

(INCLUDING OFFICERS FOR 1895.)

## MISSISSIPPI COMMANDERY, No. 1-- JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1895.

Nolan Stewart, P.E.C.....	E. C.	H. M. Taylor, P.E.C.....	Treasurer.
A. G. Lewis.....	Gen'o.	A. J. Chapman.....	Recorder.
W. B. Taylor.....	C. G.	D. P. Porter, P.E.C.....	St. Bearer.
J. L. Power, P.E.C.....	Prelate.	Geo. Lemon.....	Sw. Bearer.
R. H. Henry.....	S. W.	B. C. Lemly.....	Warder.
W. H. Tegarden.....	J. W.	J. M. Cain.....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS--J. A. Webb, R. F. McGill, O. Clifton.

MEMBERS--Robert Bradley, W. J. Ferguson, George T. Gracey, B. W. Griffith, W. C. Harrell, Wirt Johnston, John McGill, J. M. McKee, W. W. Moore, W. S. Pittman, J. W. Power, O. B. Quinn, W. W. Robertson, R. V. Rachford, J. F. Robinson--30.

KNIGHTED--R. V. Rachford, B. Carson Lemly, J. F. Robinson, A. J. Chapman.

REINSTATED--C. J. Heuck.

DIMITTED--C. W. Heitzman, C. J. Heuck, J. A. Hoskins, Geo. C. Hoskins, J. E. Seavey.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES--W. J. Brown,\* W. H. Gibbs, (by Pearl Lodge, No. 23.)

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$50 00

\*Sir Brown since reinstated in Lodge.

## MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY, No. 2--VICKSBURG, WARREN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 1st Monday of each Month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1895.

T. G. Birchett, P.E.C.....	E. C.	H. W. Bowen.....	Treasurer.
J. D. Miles, P.E.C.....	Gen'o.	A. M. Paxton.....	Recorder.
Chas. Peine.....	C. G.	E. C. Carroll, P.E.C.....	St. Bearer.
W. G. Paxton, P.G.C.....	Prelate.	P. R. Starr.....	Sw. Bearer.
John W. Powell, P.E.C.....	S. W.	A. Arnold.....	Warder.
F. Speed, P.G.C.....	J. W.	Jno. Schlottman, P.E.C.....	C. of Gu'd.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS--M. Marshall, James J. Hays, P.G.C.

MEMBERS--F. M. Andrews, Jos. Biedenbarn, E. Bonelli, W. Chamber-

lin. W. W. Campbell, S. H. Childress, Wm. Curphey, F. R. Day, R. L. Dunn, C. C. Floweree, C. E. Grant, C. W. Gibson, J. M. Gibson, G. L. Gurley, C. E. Gore, M. O. Gorman, W. E. Gillmore, I. Hardy, J. B. Hamilton, Jason W. James, A. L. Jaquith, W. E. Keister, J. H. King, W. G. Kiger, B. F. Lawrence, W. W. Lord, P. Matherson, W. J. McKee, Jas. K. Moore, W. Murray, Chas. Pare, M. R. Payne, J. C. Pritchett, Lee Richardson, C. A. Rice, W. Stanton, M. F. Smith, W. J. Smith, J. D. Smith, L. J. Thomas, J. B. White, J. C. White, A. L. Williams, S. A. Woolford, C. G. Wright—59.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—J. W. Parkhurst, A. A. Sharp—(Suspended in Lodge No. 26.)

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$59 00

### HOLLY SPRINGS COMMANDERY, No. 4—HOLLY SPRINGS, MARSHALL COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Monday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1895.

G. C. Myers, P.E.C.....	E. C.	B. F. Popham.....	Treasurer.
J. P. Alvis .....	Gen'o.	L. B. Mosby, P.E.C.....	Recorder.
W. B. Bradberry.....	C. G.	S. D. Hamilton.....	St. Bearer.
S. H. Pryor.....	Prelate.	A. B. McCrosky.....	Sw. Bearer.
J. C. Sheets.....	S. W.	M. H. Leach.....	Warder.
J. R. Horton.....	J. W.	J. W. Stephenson.....	C. of Gu'd.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—J. T. Fant.

MEMBERS—J. E. Aiken, J. J. Brooks, H. D. Campbell, W. A. Heard, W. S. Hill, B. T. Kimbrough, J. G. Leach,† R. C. Leland, T. W. Lewis, R. A. McWilliams, J. H. Morgan,\* J. L. Wilson.—25.

KNIGHTED—J. E. Aiken, J. J. Brooks, H. D. Campbell, W. A. Heard, W. S. Hill, R. A. McWilliams.

DIED—R. McGowan, July 11, 1894.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES —J. P. Cherry.‡

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$55 00

†Report for 1893 should have shown J. G. Leach in membership.

\*Should have been omitted from the "suspended" list in last report.

‡J. P. Cherry should have appeared on suspended list for 1893.

### ROSALIE COMMANDERY, No. 5—NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2nd Saturday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1895.

E. George DeLap, P.G.C.....	E. C.	George W. Koontz.....	Treasurer.
J. Foggo Dixon.....	Gen'o.	Charles F. Merrick.....	Recorder.
W. B. Irvine.....	C. G.	John Conner.....	St. Bearer.
Charles Morris.....	Prelate.	Walter Rutherford.....	Sw. Bearer.
Wm. C. Hathcox.....	S. W.	M. Beltzhoover.....	Warder.
L. E. Hildreth.....	J. W.	Chas. M. Sawyer.....	C. of Gu'd.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. C. French, G.C., W. G. Benbrook, P.G.C., Chas. T. Chamberlain, Jno. A. Dicks, G. J. Bahin, F. S. Shaw.

MEMBERS—T. Jeff Adams, Sam'l D. Baker, W. E. Ballard, Geo. M.

Brown, James A. Clinton, L. P. Conner, Jr., Wm. L. Davis, Aug. Day, C. F. Farrar, Jas. S. Fleming, A. H. Foster, J. S. Gaynor, E. J. Guice, W. H. Hendrick, S. P. Hornsby, W. J. Kaiser, H. L. Klapp, R. F. Learned, T. Q. Munce, S. McDowell, C. H. McIlwaine, W. G. McNair, M. Nelhyssel, H. C. Norman, R. L. Parker, Jacob Peebles, S. Pennywit, J. J. Proby, Frank L. Rumble, Jno. B. Scruggs, Ben. C. Smitha, Wm. Stietenroth, Madison A. Tyler, E. J. Van Court, J. S. York.—53.

KNIGHTED—L. Eugene Hildreth, William C. Hathcox, Melchior Beltzhoover.

AFFILIATED—Chares Morris.

DIED—Thomas Grafton, June 12, 1894; Robert S. Dixon, October 12, 1894.

EXPELLED—Joseph Hahn.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—W. H. Aikman, C. H. Gates, Jno. A. Guice, C. H. Kline, David King, H. M. Shaw, S. C. Sims, B. D. Watkins, W. L. Wells.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$78 00

#### ST. CYR COMMANDERY, NO. 6—WATER VALLEY, YALOBUSHA COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, the 2d Thursday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1895.

G. D. Bowen.....	E. C.	Joel Croom, P.E.C.....	Treasurer.
J. K. Fulson, P.G.C.....	Gen'o.	J. B. Pate, P.E.C.....	Recorder.
S. B. Brown, P.E.C.....	C. G.	H. A. Gant.....	St. Bearer.
R. H. Ramsey.....	Prelate.	R. Spearman.....	Sw. Bearer.
D. H. Hallowell.....	S. W.	L. W. Deekle.....	Warder.
C. E. Romberger.....	J. W.	G. J. Robertson.....	C. of Gu'd.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—H. M. Romberger, P.G.C., I. T. Blount, C. Montgomery, W. C. Shackelford, M. D. L. Stephens.

MEMBERS—W. H. Biles, J. V. Blackmur, C. R. Cocke, C. H. Campbell, E. F. Christ, Jno. Flack, J. H. Fulson, H. Gibbons, James T. Goodwin, W. A. Hadaway, Frank L. Hope, J. D. Haile, F. B. Herron, Jas. H. Johnson, John Kirby, J. S. Kettle, Alex. Kennedy, J. T. Lay, R. C. Leland, W. E. Moring, J. W. McCorkle, W. H. Price, D. C. Powell, J. B. Rogers, B. R. Scott, T. F. Trainer, F. Weatherly, W. C. Winters, John Wright, Edwin Wright, T. H. Walker, A. T. Smith—49.

KNIGHTED—F. B. Herron, J. W. McCorkle, J. D. Haile, A. T. Smith.

AFFILIATED—R. C. Leland.

DIED—W. W. Becton, March 1, 1894; W. T. Wynn, March 14, 1894.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—W. P. Painter, R. N. Owens.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$69 00

#### DEMOLAY COMMANDERY, NO. 8—COLUMBUS, LOWNDES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Friday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1895.

C. L. Lincoln, P.E.C.....	E. C.	M. A. Franklin.....	Treasurer.
B. A. Vaughan, P.E.C., P.G.C.....	Gen'o.	C. W. Mills.....	Recorder.
B. A. Weaver.....	C. G.	J. W. Gardner.....	St. Bearer.
G. W. Cox, P.E.C., P.G.C.....	Prelate.	J. H. Stevens.....	Sw. Bearer.
H. M. Waddell.....	S. W.	C. C. Buder.....	Warder.
T. B. Franklin.....	J. W.	D. S. McClanahan.....	C. of Gu'd.

MEMBERS—J. S. Billups, Willis Banks, G. Y. Banks, N. L. Davis, J. M. Easton, J. D. Guyton, J. T. Harrison, W. R. Harrington, R. F. Matthews, E. S. Moore, C. G. McGee, H. Osborne, H. C. Powers, W. D. Prowell, J. P. Stansell, H. M. Teasdale, W. E. Waring, G. B. Wilmot, W. W. Westmoreland, W. C. McCullar—32.

KNIGHTED—W. C. McCullar.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$37 00

#### CYRENE COMMANDERY, NO. 9—MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves are held on the 2d Thursday of each Month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1895.

J. H. Wright.....	E. C.	W. S. Harris.....	Treasurer.
J. A. Mooser.....	Gen'o.	H. C. Smith.....	Recorder.
W. D. Cameron.....	C. G.	C. L. Gaston.....	St. Bearer.
D. B. Waddell, P.E.C.....	Prelate.	C. M. Rubush.....	Sw. Bearer.
J. M. Buchanan, P.E.C.....	S. W.	B. V. White.....	Warder.
J. L. Spinks.....	J. W.	B. F. Parke.....	C. of Gu'd.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. R. McIntosh, G. Smallshaf.

MEMBERS—J. R. Alexander, J. C. Andrews, F. W. Bross, P. E. Blalack, J. W. Collins, T. C. Carter, C. C. Coffee, Joseph Eakin, Charles Elmire, C. S. Eastman, R. E. Harris, W. H. Howard, O. A. Harrison, T. R. Harrison, J. S. Houston, T. B. Holloman, C. R. Hoyer, J. T. Iglehart, J. E. Jones, John Kamper, E. B. Keeling, W. F. Kennedy, T. B. Lamb, T. C. Lyle, E. J. Martin, Irvin Miller, Butler McClanahan, C. E. Newcomer, J. H. Neville, A. J. Peck, D. A. Ray, W. B. Rogers, J. R. Smith, S. A. Scruggs, J. H. Short, M. J. Thompson, W. R. Woods, J. B. Watts, C. G. Westbrook, T. L. Wainwright, M. W. Woodberry, S. E. Wilson.—58.

HONORARY MEMBERS—W. E. Keller, C. S. Storkweather.

KNIGHTED—B. V. White, P. E. Blalack, J. S. Houston, E. B. Keeling, C. M. Rubush, W. B. Rogers, B. F. Parke, T. B. Holloman, T. L. Wainwright, T. C. Lyle, W. F. Kennedy, J. H. Short, C. R. Hoyer, C. E. Newcomer, M. W. Woodberry, H. J. Neville, J. E. Jones, S. C. Wilson.

AFFILIATED—Charles S. Eastman.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—C. C. Miller, H. W. Wilson.  
Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$146 00

#### IVANHOE COMMANDERY, NO. 10—OKOLONA, CHICKASAW COUNTY.

Regular Conclave 2d Thursday after 2d Wednesday of each Month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1895.

J. S. Cobb*.....	E. C.	T. W. Williams.....	Treasurer.
W. M. Buchanan.....	Gen'o.	W. J. Stockett.....	Recorder.
J. F. Hodges.....	C. G.	W. J. Lacey.....	St. Bearer.
James Gordon.....	Prelate.	W. H. Griffin.....	Sw. Bearer.
B. B. Fitzpatrick.....	S. W.	W. I. Harrell.....	Warder.
J. Q. Robbins.....	J. W.	G. W. Anglin.....	C. of Gu'd.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—W. A. Bodenhamer, P.G.C., E. M. Walker, P.E.C., P. M. Savery, P.G.C., N. G. Augustus, P.E.C.

**MEMBERS**—G. Ligon, J. W. Keyes, J. M. Dodds, W. B. Barker, C. W. Bolton, W. L. Burnett, N. Cayce, R. H. Collins, W. J. Curtis, J. M. Davis, Jesse T. Davis, Geo. D. Dillard, D. H. Goff, C. B. Hood, J. T. Harris, W. C. Harris, A. G. Harkreader, Z. T. Harper, B. McCuller, L. B. McCollier, Jerre Seale, B. A. P. Selman, R. M. Sadler, J. M. Trice, W. X. Wilson, E. C. Bolton, T. E. Cannon, H. W. Hunter, J. L. Finley, W. A. Conty, G. S. Henderson.—47.

**KNIGHTED**—W. J. Stockett, G. S. Henderson, W. A. Conty, W. J. Lacey.

**DIED**—Thso. H. Williams, September 2, 1894.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$63 00

\*Postoffice: Verona, Lee County.

**C'EUR DELION COMMANDERY, No. 13—PORT GIBSON, CLAIRBORNE COUNTY.**

Regular Conclaves, 1st Wednesday of each month.

**OFFICERS FOR 1895.**

F. H. Foote.....	E. C.	N. S. Walker.....	Treasurer.
Stephen Thrasher.....	Gen'o.	W. D. Fulkerson.....	Recorder.
R. A. Owen.....	C. G.	Jno. W. Andrews.....	St. Bearer.
J. A. B. Jones.....	Prelate.	A. Sager.....	Sw. Bearer.
A. K. Burnet.....	S. W.	W. B. Lewis.....	Warder.
J. H. Gordon.....	J. W.		

**DIED**—S. M. Briscoe, April, 1894.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$11 00

**DELTA COMMANDERY, No. 16—GREENVILLE, WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

Regular Conclaves, 4th Tuesday of each month.

**OFFICERS FOR 1895.**

William Starling.....	E. C.	John P. Finlay.....	Treasurer.
E. N. Thomas.....	Gen'o.	Dan B. Head.....	Recorder.
W. R. Trigg.....	C. G.	R. M. Standifer.....	St. Bearer.
William Cross.....	Prelate.	Charles W. Dudley.....	Sw. Bearer.
Stevenson Archer.....	S. W.	J. A. Randolph.....	Warder.
R. L. Clack..	J. W.	Chas. N. Bell..	C. of G'd.

**MEMBERS**—Geo. E. Billingsley, L. Bratson, W. L. Clack, King Dorwart, S. W. Ferguson, P. G. C., W. G. Jaquess, John G. Jones, C. H. Smith.—20.

**KNIGHTED**—J. A. Randolph, Chas. N. Bell, John G. Jones.

**SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**—W. P. McBath.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$35 00

**ABERDEEN COMMANDERY, No. 17—ABERDEEN, MONROE COUNTY.**

Regular Conclave, 4th Thursday of each Month.

W. B. Walker, P.E.C.....	E. C.	Hugh Campbell.....	Treasurer.
O. L. McKay.....	Gen'o.	J. L. Shell.....	Recorder.
G. S. Clopton.....	C. G.	A. T. Akin.....	St. Bearer.
F. P. Jenkins, P.E.C.....	Prelate.	E. W. Holmes.....	Sw. Bear'r.
L. G. Nisbit.....	S. W.	T. B. Holmes.....	Warder.
J. J. McDonald.....	J. W.	Willis Puckett.....	C. of Gu'd.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—W. G. Sykes.

MEMBERS—S. H. Berg, J. A. Bowen, J. C. Brown, W. A. Charping, J. W. Eckford, C. W. Gibson, W. S. Lindamood, V. M. Moore, J. A. Mayfield, A. A. Posey, E. G. Smith, A. J. Smith, W. F. Thomas, Edgar Wilson.—27.

KNIGHTED—J. J. McDonald, J. L. Shell, Willis Puckett.

DIED—R. B. Brannin, May 9, 1894; R. A. Honea, Feb. 4, 1894.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES, J. J. Ellis, J. C. Gathings, E. L. Sykes, S. T. Sykes.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$42 00

ST. ELMO COMMANDERY, U. D.,\*—BROOKHAVEN, LINCOLN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Friday of each Month.

OFFICERS FOR 1895.

J. E. Seavey.....E. C. H. K. Hill.....Treasurer.  
G. C. Hoskins.....Gen'o. C. Heuck, Jr.....Recorder.  
H. McColgan.....C. G. J. B. Tennant.....St. Bearer.  
W. H. Seavey.....Prelate. N. Greener.....Sw. Bearer.  
C. E. Grafton.....S. W. J. B. Tarsney.....Warder.  
E. McCormick.....J. W. C. Heuck, Sr.....C. of Gu'd.

MEMBERS—C. E. Batty, E. H. Easterling, D. D. Ewing, J. A. Hoskins, A. E. Moreton, H. Meyer, A. E. Maxwell, W. F. Parsons, M. Rials, T. O. Watkins, A. J. Whitworth.—23.

KNIGHTED—C. E. Batty, E. H. Easterling, D. D. Erving, C. E. Grafton, C. Heuck, Jr., N. Greener, A. E. Moreton, H. Meyer, A. E. Maxwell, W. F. Parsons, M. Rials, E. McCormick, J. B. Tarsney, W. H. Seavey.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$70 00

\*Chartered as No. 18.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Commanderies making reports for 1894, (total in Jurisdiction)...	12
Knights during year.....	60
Affiliated.....	3
Reinstated.....	2
Died.....	9
Total membership in Jurisdiction.....	430
Dues of Commanderies.....	\$715 00

Receipts for 1894.....	\$739 00
Disbursements for 1894.....	539 75



# Report on Fraternal Correspondence.

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To the R.: E.: Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Mississippi:

I have the honor of presenting herewith my sixteenth Annual Report on Foreign Correspondence. That it is not as good a report as it might be, is a fact apparent to any one who will take the trouble to read it, but that it is not the worst in the world is equally true! Your Committee has been somewhat handicapped by the extremely late appearance of our proceedings, as it has had the effect to bring nothing before the committees of other Grand Jurisdictions on which to expatiate, hence the spiciness of the report has been somewhat curtailed. Our promise in the closing of our last report, to subside on the subject of uniforms and swords as adjuncts to Devotional Offices, has had the effect to eliminate a fruitful theme for spouting by this Committee. It is barely possible that this is all for the best and we are not disposed to complain. Such as it is, we present it for your inspection. If it suits you its criticism by others will not disturb our equanimity in the least.

With these few remarks we take up—

## ALABAMA—1894.

Thirty-Fourth Annual at Birmingham, May 9. R.: E.: Chas. Wheelock, Grand Commander; E.: Sir Edward R. Hastings, Grand Recorder. Ten Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The R.: E.:’s “opening chorus” indicates that he is something of a pessimist. We clip it:

Sir Knights: The wheel of time has made one more revolution, and rounded up one more year since last we met in Conclave at Gadsden, and by the “Providence of God” we are permitted to assemble again in this the 34th Annual Conclave in Birmingham, the “Magic City” of the Sunny South. We meet here to review the records of the past year and to take upon ourselves new duties for the next. The past year has been fraught with appalling disasters on land and sea—pestilence has stalked through the land—financial ruin has knocked at the doors of prosperity, and the clouds of adversity have made many a heart ache in this fair land; let us return thanks to an all-wise Providence for the many blessings vouchsafed us in the past, and humbly ask for health, peace and prosperity in the future.

One short year ago you placed in my hands the insignia of authority, and chose me as your Grand Commander, since which time I have endeavored to be true to the trust reposed in me—you placed me at the head of

an Order in which simple membership is an honor, and whose teachings are calculated to promote the noblest virtues and bring to the surface those noble traits, faith, hope and charity—its teachings increase our fidelity, refine our intelligence, stimulate our ability and insure conscientiousness in all worldly affairs—so along the line, at each and every round of the Masonic ladder the human breast is inspired with hope, without which virtue would lose its necessary stimulus, and vice its salutary fear, life would be devoid of joy, and the grave but a scene of desolation.

Sir Knights, thanking you one and all for your knightly support in the past, I will now lay before you the report of my administration for the past year.

This country is all right, and the fact that a high wind, a cloud-burst and a case or two of colic comes along, is no sign that God is not good, gentle, tender, long-forbearing and very merciful. Nor are we aware that "pestilence" has stalked through the land, to any marked extent. Contrasting our health conditions with many parts of the "Old World," we can certainly find great cause for gratitude to the Father of Mercies, and precious little to complain of.

He granted a dispensation for the resurrection of Eufala Commandery. He promulgated the New Ritual in a General Order. He takes considerable stock in our good Bro. Berry's "Christmas Libation," and forwarded a very beautiful sentiment to Grand Master McCurdy, who responds in his usual elegant style.

Several of the staff inspected their Divisions and made reports. We are disposed to commend this custom as being productive of increased interest.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of \$652. Receipts, \$1,085.00. We find the following in the minutes :

WHEREAS, The Grand Commandery of Alabama remembers with sorrow that the Cross, the symbol of our faith, was displayed on the doors at the Triennial Conclave held in Denver in 1892, and at other Conclaves :

Therefore be it Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Alabama earnestly petition Grand Master Hugh McCurdy to use his influence to prevent the unseemly use of the Cross at the next Triennial Conclave, to be held in Boston.

Resolved, 2. That these resolutions be sent to the M. E. Grand Master by the R. E. Grand Commander of Alabama, together with such memorial letter, going to emphasize the sentiments of this Grand Commandery, as he may deem expedient.

Which was unanimously adopted. We are at a loss to know how the evil—for evil it is—*can* be corrected, as the order has no vested rights in the symbols referred to : and it is questionable whether a remedy can be found outside of the good taste and sense of propriety and the eternal fitness of things. We presume that no one will deny that at every session of the Grand Encampment, the local and visiting *demi monde* are decked out in Templar badges of the different Grand Commanderies, and that this state of affairs indicates much more innate cussedness in some of our members than can be found in the average saloon keeper. Suppose we squelch this development among our own members, after which it will be in order to consider the saloon decked off with the cross ! Let's be consistent.

After the close of the Conclave, they had a royally good time and closed with the "Devotional Offices" and a banquet.

Our good brother, Geo. F. Moore, is again to the front with an excellent report on Correspondence. We copy a part of his opening remarks:

To the R. E. Grand Commandery of Alabama:

It will be observed that the method and style of this, our sixth Annual Report on Correspondence, are similar to our former Reports.

We have, several times, given the reason which led to the adoption of this mode of writing these papers without resorting to the easier mode of simply cutting out extracts from the volumes of the Proceedings of other Grand Commanderies, pasting them on paper and sending them to the printer without comment. Our Grand Commandery can not afford to print elaborate reports, and hence a "running commentary" on matters which seem to the committee to be of most interest to Templars is all that can be given or expected.

This practice of writing reports has been commended by nearly all the correspondents of other jurisdictions, some of whom have discarded the mechanical plan and have adopted the plan of writing their reports.

We have been criticised by Sir Knight Hall, the Georgia correspondent, who says in his last report, when reviewing Alabama, "He (meaning the writer) says 'it would be much easier work to use the paste-pot like some of our Fraters.' We wish he would. It would be less labor for him, no more expense in the printing, and much more satisfactory to the reader. We will not go as far as Sir Swain, of Wisconsin, and say his style is 'abominable.' But we would be glad to have him change it."

We regret that our reports do not please our Frater, and are sorry that he has misrepresented us and Bro. Swain in the quotation we have just given. We cannot believe he did so intentionally. When one reads what Frater Swain really said, viz., "the style is abominable so far as the reviewer is concerned, though we admit it makes good reading," we are quite content to abide the judgment of our distinguished Frater of Wisconsin.

We do not like the style as well as some others, but if it suits Bro. Moore, there is no kick coming to us.

Referring to the Grand Representative system, under Arkansas, he calls it a "roaring farce." Correct.

He has this to say to Lippitt, of California, anent the new ritual:

Under Indiana, he asks, "can not we all rejoice that tinkering with the Ritual is a thing of the past?" How appropriate a word our Brother uses! Tinkering from tink—to beat on a tin bucket with a stick to attract attention! The tinkering we hope is done, but now let us go back to the old Ritual or get one somewhere, for the one adopted at Denver is not at all to our liking, and we believe Bro. Lippitt will agree with us when he sees the Orders conferred in accordance with it.

Mississippi has pleasant attention in this excellent paper. He notes the fact of the Devotional Offices being held, followed, at the Asylum, by refreshments, and adds:

Bro. DeLap, did the "iron enter your soul" when you saw all this going on in your church? You joined in the collection, no doubt, by "chipping in," and we hope your dyspepsia did not prevent you from tasting "them fixins;" but of course you did not participate in the "armed piety." We wonder if you "kicked" about it then and there as vigorously as you do in reports. Now, did you? "Honest Injun," now, Sir Knight?"

We were there, but not in uniform. Did no kicking. It is foolish to kick when you know it will do no good. Hence we have dropped the whole thing, having the consciousness of having discharged our duty, as well as our guns. "Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone." We thank our good brother for the following :

Sir Knight Geo. DeLap produces another of his readable Reports for our delectation. He has been sick, but he wishes it to be distinctly understood that his "affliction is, in no wise, responsible for any of the fulminations that may strike them (the Guild) as cranky or dyspeptic." Please understand that for our part, Bro. DeLap, we do not object to such "crankiness" as you exhibit. We can not always agree with you, but it is only through discussion that the truth is elicited. We know you are honest and earnest in your convictions.

There are a thousand good things in Bro. Morris' report, but they are in such shape that we must needs copy the whole paper to get what we want.

Grand Commander Chas. Wheelock and Grand Recorder E. R. Hastings, re-elected. Correspondent, as before.

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#### ARIZONA—1893.

A Convention of the Representatives of the Templar bodies of Arizona was held the City of Phoenix, November 14, and the Grand Commandery of the Territory of Arizona was organized under a dispensation from Grand Master McCurdy. A Constitution, Statutes and General Regulations were adopted and the child dressed in becoming style. May she grow in prosperity and usefulness until the fulness of time.

The first "Annual" was held two days later, and after the transaction of routine business, adjourned to meet in the same place on the 14th November, 1894.

R. E. Sir Geo. J. Roskrue is Grand Commander; E. Sir Douglas Snyder, Grand Recorder; Sir Harry B. Lighthizer, et al. Correspondents.

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#### ARKANSAS. 1894.

Twenty-second Annual at Little Rock, April 17th. Sir Sam'l W. Williams, Grand Commander; Sir Jas. A. Henry, Grand Recorder.

The address is short and confined to local matters. We copy the following :

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Arkansas :

At this, the Twenty-third Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery, I greet you. The memory of it is a pleasure that increases with the years: that twenty-two years ago I was one of the few who organized this Grand Body; and that with few exceptions, I have been present with it every year since, a privilege I hoped to be spared, in strength, to enjoy for years to come.

When I look over this body I rejoice at increased members, which these years have brought, and am sad that of all my coadjutors of 1872

none are present, and nearly all have passed the gates where Death stands warder.

The year which has closed is one with few positive results, and mostly negatives. It has been a year of hardship and disappointment. Let those who choose to look for causes find them in this or that, the fact remains it has been a year of trials. But we have much to be thankful for; hard times induce economy and industry, and they in time bring thrift and prosperity.

The Commanderies in this jurisdiction have been alive; a few of them have done considerable work. One of the great causes hindering work is now removed, to-wit: the delays in getting the Ritual and all the results of uncertainty, as to how we should work, are happily over.

He has this to say anent the new Ritual:

While, in my judgement, it is no improvement upon the old French Ritual, which Sir Albert Pike brought here in 1854, and under which I was knighted, near forty years ago, yet, this new Ritual is good, and I hope will be allowed to remain unchanged. If we are ever to have uniformity of work, it must come by settling our Ritual forever, learning it thoroughly and sticking to it.

Proceedings local. Order healthy. Total membership 497.

Bro. Rickon is the author of the Correspondence Report, which covers nearly all the ground, and 78 pages. Mississippi for 1893 gets nearly two pages.

Sir Wm. Moore Mellitte is Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### CANADA—1894.

The Eleventh Annual Assembly was held in Toronto, September 4th. "M. E. Sir E. E. Sheppard, Supreme Grand Master, on the Throne."

The address is an elegant paper, but is confined almost entirely to matters local. We except the following, which is pretty hard on the plebian element of the population of Canada in the aspirations to the honors and privileges of Christian Knighthood. That we do not endorse the second paragraph, goes without the saying, as it savors entirely too much of codfish aristocracy to suit us. By "codfish aristocracy," we mean any and all but those of brains and merit. This sort of exclusiveness makes us tired. There are hundreds of Canucks, none of whom the aristocracy of the "Dominion" would introduce into their "drawing rooms" or associate with, who would make as worthy and respectable members of the Order as the Grand Master himself. The Author of Salvation, Himself, would have come under the ban of exclusion set forth by the Grand Master. But here is the report:

Into these pleasant and sacred associations, it must be apparent to every one, that no one should be admitted whose life is unbecomingly, whose impulses are improper, or whose association can be degrading. We all know, thoroughly well, that no Preceptory should admit a member who cannot be introduced into our drawing-rooms, or be made an associate of the tenderest and most impressionable of those we love. In Canada we have fostered the institution with much care, and I am glad to feel that while our membership is smaller than the percentage of Masonry seems to suggest as possible within the limits of propriety, yet I hope that the

limitations which have been observed, are those which have been demanded by the necessities of making our Order as select and self-respecting as its knightly founders had hoped. I have been favored with special opportunities of meeting those who constitute this Order from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I can testify that everywhere I have met such men as I have tried to describe, and receive such receptions as I shall never forget.

He reports the Order as fairly prosperous, and that peace has been restored between Canada and the Great Priory of England and Wales.

The proceedings are local. Total membership, 1293. Sir Hy Robertson is the author of an excellent report on Correspondence—seventy pages—in which most of the Templar family receive courteous attention. Under California we find the following good hit at the custom of parading Templars on all occasions:

A curiosity appears in the issue of a dispensation to allow a Commandery to appear in full uniform on the occasion of the delectation of the 35th anniversary of the discovery of San Diego Bay. We are always adding to our stock of historical knowledge, and as we were not previously aware that the Templars had discovered San Diego Bay, we must now make a mental note that, in 1542, our vigilant ancestors, the decendants of Bertrand Du Guesclin, some 200 years after the suppression of the Order in Europe, are found peacefully sailing o'er the beautiful Pacific, "from lands of snow to lands of sun."

□ "Delectation" is a new one, and we shall consult old "Noah" as to its meaning.

Grand Officers and Correspondent as before.

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#### CALIFORNIA—1894.

Thirty-Sixth Annual at San Francisco, April 19. R.: E.: Sir Wm. Vanderhurst, Grand Commander: R.: E.: Sir Thos. H. Caswell, Grand Recorder. Thirty-two Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address opens as follows:

Sir Knights:—On behalf of the membership of the Knights Templar of this jurisdiction, I greet you, and welcome you to the thirty-sixth Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery.

Having recently met the most of you in your respective Commanderies, and having been the recipient of that Knightly courtesy and genial hospitality which the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction so willingly accord to their Grand Officers, it is with more than ordinary pleasure that I extend to you a hearty welcome to the "Asylum of the Grand Commandery," and a participation in its labors and Knightly intercourse.

Sir Knights, we are members of the grandest and noblest Order in existence—an order which commands the respect and admiration of the world.

Fortune, Sir Knights, has cast our lot in one of the grandest States of our Union, a State of undoubted capabilities and unknown possibilities, and blessed with every requisite necessary to support a population far larger than we now have. You are come from all parts of this great State. From the snow-clad hills of the Sierra Nevadas, from the soft and genial climes of the South, from Siskiyou to the sea; you have come to discharge the duties incumbent on you as members of this great Order. Your hearts, I trust, are filled with a noble and self-sacrificing love for

the principles we advocate, and, I hope, inspired with untiring zeal to labor for its welfare and perpetuity.

Further along he has this to say:

If our Order ever assumes that dignity of place which belongs to it, it will be because its members recognize their individual responsibility to the entire Order, and so conduct themselves as not to degrade it. In this connection, I desire to allude to that portion of the address of my predecessor referring to "overindulgence in the intoxicating cup," which has my unqualified endorsement and should have that of every member of our Order.

I am pleased to say to you, Sir Knights, that either through the kindly admonitions of my predecessor, or through the natural evidences presented to the minds of the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction, there exists a strong and growing inclination among the Commanderies to curtail the indulgence of wine on festal occasions; and I take this opportunity to appeal to the better judgment of the members of this noble Order and ask that they exert themselves to still further moderate its use, both in quantity and expense. I realize that it is unpleasant to refer to this subject, but at the same time I deem it my duty to present the matter for your calm and careful consideration, and trust that these allusions to a very delicate, yet, very important subject, may not only meet with your approval, but also have the desired effect.

No man who is fit to be a Templar will favor the presence of wine, or intoxicants of any sort, at a Templar banquet, no matter whether he lives in California or Mississippi. These are our sentiments, and that is what we would have said in his place, and without apology or mincing matters at all. His dispensations were all sensible.

Courteous mention is made of the Knightly dead, both of his own and other jurisdictions.

He says the New Ritual gives unqualified satisfaction. The address, as a whole, is an excellent paper.

Reports of the Inspectors show the Order to be in admirable shape. Total membership 2,812—a gain of 34.

Right in the bowels of the pamphlet we find the report on Correspondence, which is presented by Sir William Abraham Davis, which reviews all the Templar Grand Bodies of this continent, also those of England and Wales. The report is an admirable one, and shows its author to be a man of parts. He has these pleasant words to say of our good Bro. Moore, of Alabama:

Sir Geo. F. Moore is an earnest writer, and it requires no stretch of our imagination to feel that he utters the opinions he gives with a firm conviction of their truth and direct application to the question under consideration. His views are presented and maintained with a gentle firmness that inspires confidence in the commentator, and brings forward the belief that in him, precept and example go hand-in-hand. We have not the pleasure of knowing Sir George, but from specimens of his skill brought up, he is in our judgment a living stone fit for the builder's use.

In all of which we fully concur.

Bro. Davis gives Mississippi for 1893 four pages of pleasant, readable attention. He quotes liberally from Bro. Bodenhamer's address, the minutes, and our report: says some flattering words about this scribe, which are appreciated; differs with us in regard to the Trinitarian question, as the following shows:

We have neither time nor space for a theological discussion of what constitutes a Christian, but we think the frater entirely out of order in his demand for judgment against those members of our Order who may not coincide in all doctrinal points concerning the Trinity with the authorities as expounded by the Church of England.

As we know American Templarism, it is required of the applicant that he honestly and sincerely declare his belief in what is set forth in the petition he signs, and in the Ritual under which he receives the Orders. Section 2, of title 54 of the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment, declares that it is not within the power of any Commandery or Grand Commandery, to give additional definitions or any "theological views" to which the applicant may be required to subscribe beyond those which the Ritual contains. The Ritual contains those things which a Knight obligates himself to believe and perform. Then why should you, Frater DeLap, in this matter, ask that all Templars should accept your definitions and theological views in addition to what was required of them as applicants?

We believe in the Universality of Masonry, and that our profession of belief as Knights Templar, under our American system, is broad enough to include Christians of all denominations.

We always supposed that all petitioners for the Orders of Knighthood were required to declare their belief in the Christian religion, and as the dogma of the "Trinity" is one of the fundamental principles of that religion, we are unable to see how a Unitarian can be a Templar consistently. However, our "friend and brother, Abram," thinks differently, and we feel too badly to quarrel with him, were such our desire, which it is not.

He says of "our Fred's" response to Bro. Enoch's Grand Encampment sketch:

The review is quite full and necessarily lengthy. It is an able and scholarly record of the preliminary formation and subsequent organization of the Grand Encampment. We should like to transfer it, but must forego the pleasure.

As a whole, Bro. Davis' report is the equal of the best, novice as he is. There is but one thing in it we would like to see changed, and that is the word "Frater," for which we would substitute "Brother." We are aware that the former is more toney, perhaps, more in consonance with traditions and history of the Order, but we don't like it near so well as the latter.

Feeling so unwell to-day, we fear we have not done justice to the California pamphlet, but we have done our best and the angels can do no more.

Sir Frank Wm. Sumner is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### CONNECTICUT--1894.

Sixty-Seventh Annual at Danbury, March 20th. R. E. Sir Jas. B. Wildman, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir J. K. Wheeler, Grand Recorder. Eleven Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is comparatively short. He pays just tribute to the maganimous dead, and the list is a long one, Connecticut escaping entirely--



i. e., the Grand Body. His dispensations are numerous, but all for legitimate purposes. His visitations were quite general. The new Ritual is in full blast in the nutmeg State.

The Deputy Grand Commander and Grand C. C. G. also made reports of visitations. Finances healthy. Order in excellent shape.

Grand Recorder Wheeler is the author of the Correspondence report, which is first-class in every respect. He reviews nearly all the Grand Jurisdictions—Mississippi for 1893 receiving pleasant and fraternal notice. He says of our last ('93) report, "it seems to us its tone is a little softer." When did you see anything hard in a report of ours?

We clip the following: "Then referring to some jingle under the head of California, he finds something he does not exactly like. He says:

"There is an odor of sanctity about these old hymns that renders any disparaging reference to them peculiarly unpleasant to us. Nor are we able to discover where the "fatalism" comes in. We know but little—nothing, we might say—of Greek philosophy, but we do know that a sleep, the waking from which will be the "First Resurrection," *must* be sweet."

Let us see! The hymn he alludes to runs as follows:

"There is a calm for those who weep.  
A rest for weary pilgrims found.  
They softly lie and sweetly sleep,  
Low in the ground."

We will reply by asking a question, the Yankee method. Does the *soul* sleep? If so, does it sleep "Low in the ground? Christ said to the dying thief, "This day shalt thou be with ME in Paradise." One was buried, i. e., his body, in the ground. One, his body, was placed in a new sepulcher, hewn from the rock. These bodies were not together. Where were their spirits? The Master said they would be together in Paradise. Where is Paradise? Is it "low in the ground." Sir Knight, DeLap?

We did not analyze the verse nor trace the language to its logical sequence. The soul does not sleep, of course, but the body, the soul's tenement, original, and if the doctrine of the resurrection is true, subsequent, does sleep and in the ground. In the morning of the resurrection that body will be raised and glorified and become a fit habitation for the soul that has spent the intermediate time in Paradise. The verse is a part of a funeral hymn, and has reference, particularly, to the mortal part. But we are not disposed to find fault with Bro. Wheeler. The author of "Abide in Me," is not likely to be irreverent. He seems to have a hankering for Templar parades on "Memorial Days," which we think is wrong. He also opposes work in the Order of the Temple on the Sabbath, in which we think he is wrong again.

Conferring the Templar and Malta degrees on the Sabbath, outside of the hours of regular church service, is, we think, not wrong in God's sight. We find less quotable original matter in this than in any of Bro. Wheeler's reports. As we are not feeling at all well this A. M., we will say goodbye to Connecticut and quit for the present.

R. E.: Sir G. Herrick Wilson is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent, continued.

## COLORADO--1894.

Nineteenth Annual at Denver, June 5th. Sir Albert B. McGaffey, R.: E.: Grand Commander; Sir E. C. Parmalee, Grand Recorder. Twenty out of twenty-four Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is short and strictly business. He is inclined to be pessimistic, and is disposed to think the country is in a bad fix, and that it is all owing to the political complexion of the administration, we presume.

The closing of sundry silver mines has had a very depressing effect on some of his subordinates. This is sad, but if you turn the thing over to the other fellows, will it be any brighter, and stay so?

From his decisions we clip the following :

"In reply to the question asked, I answered : There is nothing in the Statutes of the Grand Commandery of this State that would prevent a member of a Commandery opening a BAR in his hotel."

We move to amend the Statutes by inserting a clause prohibiting any **TEMPLAR** from engaging in any business that wrecks homes, makes broken-hearted women, starves children, fills prisons with felons, furnishes material for the hangman to work up, drives men into the gutter and drunkard's graves, and sends their souls to an eternal hell! There is nothing in the principles or teachings of the Order that invites such people to affiliate with it, and there is something radically wrong in the *personnel* of Grand or Subordinate Commanderies of Knights Templar that tolerate such members. **KICK THEM OUT**, without the benefit of clergy or a moment's delay. **AFTER** the above, he has this to say in regard to Templar Days :

Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Ascension Day have been set apart by this Grand Commandery as days of special observance, and Commanderies of this jurisdiction have authority to appear in public in full Templar uniform on these days without special dispensation. I find that the custom of holding religious services upon one or more of these days is steadily growing in favor, and to my mind cannot be too strongly commended. It is certainly in accord with the spirit and teachings of our Order, and one of these days at least should be observed each year, either in the Asylum or at some place of public worship.

By all means let your saloon-keeping Templars have a chance to hear the Gospel! They need it! He reports the new Ritual in general use and that it gives "universal satisfaction." His visitations were quite extensive. The address, as a whole, is a good one.

We find nothing of general interest in the minutes. The Order is fairly prosperous. Total membership 1626, a gain of 57.

The Correspondence, by Sir H. M. Orahood, is made up of clippings from the transactions of thirty-nine Teplar jurisdictions, without comment. Mississippi for last year gets over a page of this sort of report. We regret our good brother's failure to blow his trumpet. He ought to do it.

As his closing is original and shows his opinion in regard to the new ritual, we copy it entire:

It has been our custom, in past years, to call attention to the questions, which, during the year reviewed, have attracted attention and discussion, with a short statement of our views regarding the same. Last year the particular matter of greatest importance, at least to our jurisdiction:

was the Twenty-Fifth Triennial. On this we then made our comments. This year we find very much in the addresses of Grand Commanders and Reports on Correspondence on this subject. Many of these make personal reference and comment, which we have been tempted to quote and acknowledge, but on further consideration we found it would be impossible and improper to do this. So we must content ourselves by saying, brethren we thank you one and all for your kind words and appreciation, and though we have not made personal response as we have reviewed the proceedings, we have fully appreciated your commendation.

We have made a number of quotations referring to the Ritual. All have been in its favor, so far as we remember. In fact, we may say it has been enthusiastically received. The action and feeling at the Triennial next year, however, will be the test as to whether or not it is, and will continue to be generally satisfactory. We predict, and most certainly hope, it will be the test of every day usage.

The general prosperity of the Order elsewhere, noted in our last Report, still continues. Here and there a note of financial depression and hard times comes up, and we can truly say we have cause to know what this means. But we are on the road to recovery and have no time to complain; we are too busy in our efforts to regain what we have lost to take time to count our losses or to blame any one for the cause.

Our Order in this jurisdiction is holding the even tenor of its way, and although not increasing in numbers so greatly as in former years, doing a noble work for the cause of humanity, morality and Christianity.

R. E. Sir Wm. D. Todd is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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#### GEORGIA—1894.

Thirty-Third Annual at Atlanta, May 9th. Sir Washington P. Baldwin, G. C., presiding; Sir Samuel P. Hamilton, Grand Recorder. Ten Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is medium, in length, well written and good. We clip his "opening chorus:"

Sir Knights:—By the mercy and goodness of that Supreme Being, who orders or permits everything which comes to pass both in the affairs of men and nations, we are again met on this the Thirty-Third Anniversary of the formation of this Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, in this the finest city of the South, in Atlanta, the great capital of this, the great State of Georgia—to hold fraternal converse and deliberate upon matters affecting the prosperity of this the foremost Order in the world. For next to the Christian Church, which was founded by our Redeemer Himself, there is no Order within my knowledge which has the well being of men so much at heart as does this our Order of "Knights of the Temple," or "Christian Masonry." It would not be becoming in me at this time and place to enter into a discussion and endeavor to establish the fact why we can truthfully make boast of our claim, but let it suffice us to make and let those who dispute it or call our claim in question, upon them let the burden of proof rest to set aside our claim, and while I would not detract from the well-earned fame of many noble Orders established by men for uplifting mankind—these only add to the comfort of their bodies—but our Christian Knighthood goes one step further, and not only endeavors to teach precepts for the good of men's bodies, but teaches those things which we regard as essential to that immortality which the soul in all ages has longed for, and which is revealed to us only by the blessed Immanuel whom we worship.

It is one thing to have a mission, but quite another thing to fill that mission faithfully and well. Do we do it? Probably not!

His dispensations were all O. K., some of them being to allow Commanders to ballot without the legal delay. He "deploras" the practice of asking for these concessions, in the following plaintive tones:

While we all deplore this practice of asking Dispensations to have the ballots before the legal time has elapsed, yet I cannot see that any real harm will come to our Order if we will all be vigilant and guard well the doors of our asylums. Yet it certainly cannot work a hardship upon any one to require him to wait until ample time has been given to investigate his character and fitness. While we are anxious to add worthy members to our Order, we should be careful lest our zeal outstrips our discretion.

Had we ground out a few tears on account of the presumption of the Grand Bodies in assuming the right to interfere in this, very domestic, economy of the Subordinate Commands, it would have been better. He declined to allow the Grand Commandery of Georgia to act as escort to the Grand Lodge on the occasion of the funeral of Grand Master of Masons of Georgia. Although his reasons are plausible we are inclined to think he was wrong. We are not of those who consider the Grand Commander of a State, or even the Grand Encampment of the United States, as the peer of the Grand Lodge of Masons of any jurisdiction. Hence it would not be at all beneath the dignity of the former to act as escort to the latter, on any occasion:

He has this to say about our good Brother Hall, in all of which we concur:

Our worthy foreign correspondent, Sir Roland B. Hall, is entitled to our thanks for his able paper. I have but recently had a copy placed in my hands, and have not been able as yet to give that careful perusal to which it is entitled. I respectfully commend it to this body, for in it we find what is being done by other Grand Commanderies, and we are able to compare ourselves with others and thus to make advances.

Proceedings local: Order in good trim: total membership, 647—a gain of 50. The correspondence, covering 64 pages, is the masterly production of Sir Roland B. Hall, and is first-class. Bro. Hall digests or clips from proceedings of most of the Templar family—Mississippi for 1893, receiving pleasant notice. We are duly and sincerely grateful to our good brother for his sympathy in our affliction, and his kind wishes for our speedy recovery. God knows what is best for us, Bro. H., and that is what we shall have. It may be necessary for our affliction to remain until, purified by suffering, the Master says—It is enough. Whatever His will may be, I am content to do and suffer it, knowing that, in this, I shall be right. Heaven will compensate for a life of uninterrupted suffering here, and that is the good for which I am striving. We regret the paucity of original matter in our brother's reports. His selections are the best, and he incorporates much valuable information into his reports, but a little "Hall" here and there would improve the menu. Under Tennessee, we find the following beautiful tribute to our beloved friend and brother, the lamented, the inimitable, the genial and talented, George C. Connor, whose body is melting to its original dust, and whose soul, we doubt not, is with the blest in Heaven:

Since penning the foregoing the public press has announced the sad intelligence that Tennessee's distinguished Templar, Right Eminent Sir George C. Connor, Past Grand Commander of Tennessee and Grand Sword-Bearer of the Grand Encampment, died at Chattanooga, Tenn., on March, 9th, 1894. We cannot find language capable of expressing our sorrow. Of a brilliant mind, a learned Mason, a courteous Knight and a true friend was he. He has been honored by his Fraters, but not beyond his merits. The Templar world will miss him. His many friends will sincerely mourn him. To abler hands than ours will be assigned the task of paying tribute to his worth. We can only bring from the garden of the heart, this modest garland of friendship dripping with the dues of affection to place upon the grave of him we loved. Kind friend, farewell! Rest thou in peace! To the Jurisdiction of Tennessee, and to his mourning family, we extend our hearty sympathy, and with them we mourn.

In every sentiment of affection and eulogy in the above, we fully concur.

Sir Park Woodward is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Samuel P. Hamilton, is Grand Recorder; and Sir Roland B. Hall, Correspondent.

#### ILLINOIS—1894.

Thirty-Eighth Annual was held in Chicago, October 23d, Sir Harvey M. Hall, R. E. Grand Commander; E. Sir Gilbert W. Barnard, Grand Recorder. The address is a business paper from end to end. Appropriate tribute is paid to the magnanimous dead of his own and sister Jurisdictions.

He notes, with pleasure, the success of the Masonic Orphans' Home, and expresses the hope that the Grand Commandery will make donation to it. His dispensations were all for proper purposes. They generally are in that bailiwick. His decisions are in accord with the laws of the Grand Excampment, but not with sound barnyard sense. It will be a happy time when that unnecessary appendage to Templary is forced to quit interfering with the domestic concerns of the Subordinate Commanderies. The idea of suspending a Templar without trial, and simply for non-payment of dues and then require him to pay up, send in regular petition and run the gauntlet of a unanimous ballot, in order to be reinstated, is splendid law, isn't it?

He quotes the following action of a Subordinate Commandery:

"Be it Resolved, By Ascalon Commandery, No. 49, K. T., of Pittsfield, Illinois, that it is the sense of this Commandery that a conclave of the Knights Templar of the world should be held in New York city the last three days of the year 1900, and the succeeding three days of 1901, to celebrate in fitting manner, the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ and the triumphs of the Christian religion. And be it further

"Resolved, That the Recorder of this Commandery is hereby instructed to prepare and forward to the Recorder of the Grand Commandery of the State of Illinois, a copy of this resolution, with a request that the same shall be presented to said Grand Commandery at its next annual conclave, and if adopted by said body to be presented to the Grand Encampment of the United States at its next Conclave, for adoption by that body.

Then follows the resolutions of Alabama, in reference to the display of

the Cross on the doors of saloons at last Triennial, and also recommends their hearty support.

If this sort of business was conspicuous at Denver, what is likely to happen of a similar sort at New York, in the year 1900-1, if the idea of our Ascalon brethren are carried out? The plan strikes us as having a much larger element of display and gush than devotion about it. If there is a sincere and grateful wish to evidence our devotion to the Master, we can do it better in the privacy of our Asylums, and in our hearts and lives than by any general public display of the kind proposed. We may be cranky, but that is our opinion.

The resolutions were referred to the Representatives to the Grand Encampment, and those of Alabama were endorsed.

The reports of the different Staff Officers, as Inspectors, show the Order to be in good condition, barring some deficiency in the practice of the Asylum tactics. No doubt some of them open with a crow-bar and close with a sledge-hammer.

The R. E. is "down on" rotation in office, and thinks where an incumbent is negligent in attendance and unlearned in the duties of the office, he should be bounced without hesitation. Correct.

There is no man so great as to honor Masonry or Templary by his simple connection with it. Nor is any one entitled to official positions in either who does not feel sufficient interest to qualify himself therefor, and faithfully discharge their functions.

Grand Master McCurdy being "on deck," was received with the honors due his rank and personal worth. Of course he made a speech. It is cold in August when our Brother Hugh is not ready to talk sense, wit and pathos.

The Grand Prelate and Grand Senior Warden and Past Grand Recorder Parvin, of the G. E., were also present and made short but interesting talks.

The retiring Grand Commander was presented with a Past Grand Commander's jewel.

Our good Bro. Smith comes to the front with his sixth report on Correspondence. His "Opening Chorus," is couched in the following good English:

By reason of the kindness of the R. E. Grand Commander Harvey Milton Hall, in appointing the undersigned as Templar Correspondent, and the grace of our Heavenly Father, in sparing us for another year, we are enabled to present this, our sixth report on correspondence.

The Templar field has been gleaned and no proceedings yet at hand have been neglected or overlooked. In one and all, we note the quiet energy which is being put forth to upbuild and strengthen the Knightly Temple and advance the interest of our magnanimous Order. No vexed questions appear to disturb the peace and harmony which prevails in all our Grand Asylums, and the universal reports of all our committees on grievances are, "no cause of grievance has been presented to your committee."

That such may long continue to be the report of such committees, is the wish of your correspondent.

JOHN CARSON SMITH, Correspondent.

FIRST. In 1893 the Masonic Grand Lodge of Iowa amended its code providing new penalties for non-affiliation in the Lodge; the question was raised in many quarters how this would affect the Templar standing of those who became unaffiliated Masons under this new regulation. In response to inquiries upon that subject, I replied as follows:

The question you propound is this: "Is the standing of a Knight Templar affected in any manner by his withdrawing his membership from the Lodge under Section 209 of the Masonic Code of Iowa, and thereby becoming subject to the disabilities of an unaffiliated Master Mason?"

This question must be answered in the negative. It is Masonic rights and not Lodge membership that is essential to Templar membership and good standing. When a Templar is deprived of his Masonic rights his Templar rights are in abeyance during such deprivation, not because he has lost Lodge or Chapter membership, neither of which is essential under the law, but because he has lost his Craft or capitular rights, which are a prerequisite.

Sections 1 and 2, title 41, Statutes of the Grand Encampment provide:

"Non-affiliation in Lodge or Chapter does not prevent one otherwise qualified from petitioning for and receiving the orders. By merely becoming non-affiliate in Lodge or Chapter a Templar does not lose his standing in the Commandery."

This doctrine has been adhered to with great tenacity by the Grand Encampment. Various attempts have been made to change it by legislation in that body, but without success. It would do no good to review these efforts. I would merely call attention to the last effort in this direction, as shown on pages 198-9, proceedings of the Grand Encampment 1899. In this report the Committee on Jurisprudence say:

"Each of these Bodies (Lodge and Chapter) is self-governing, and should be self-sustaining. We pay due respect to their authority as preliminary degrees to the Order of Knighthood by depriving a Knight of all his privileges whenever he may be expelled or suspended from his Lodge or Chapter. Further than this we cannot safely go."

This report was adopted by the Grand Encampment.

The decision of Past Grand Master Gobin, on pages 18-21 of proceedings for 1892, Grand Encampment, which was approved by the Grand Encampment, would seem to go to the extent of holding that where a party is deprived of all his Masonic rights because of his nonaffiliation with his Lodge and Chapter, that this would not affect his Templar standing, and that it must require either suspension or expulsion by the Lodge or Chapter to have that effect. The decision in that case was as to the effect of Section 1, Article 2 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of California, which provides that a person holding a dimitt from a Lodge, and who declines to affiliate or contribute to the revenues of such Lodge, "should be deemed unworthy of Masonic consideration, and shall not be entitled to nor be the recipient of any of the rights, privileges, or charities of the order." The question arose as to the standing of a Templar who held a dimitt from his Lodge and refused to affiliate with or contribute to its revenues under this provision. It will be observed that the provisions of the Grand Lodge in that case were very broad and sweeping as to depriving him of his Masonic rights and standing—much more so than the one now under consideration. Grand Master Gobin held that these facts did not destroy Templar rights or standing. He said, among other things:

"The Code is explicit that a Templar, by merely becoming non-affiliate in Lodge or Chapter, does not lose his standing in the Commandery. Each Grand Body must have the exclusive right to determine the qualifications for its own membership. Neither the Grand Lodge nor Grand Chapter can legislate for the Grand Commandery, nor impose any burdens upon its membership. Therefore these bodies cannot by any enactment prescribe qualifications for the Orders of Knighthood."

As I have said, this decision was approved by the Grand Encampment, and would seem to go to the extent that the Grand Lodge could not impose any penalty for mere non-affiliation which would affect Templar standing, and that such standing can only be affected by expulsion or suspension in Lodge or Chapter. It is not necessary, however, to go to that extent in this holding.

Section 209, of Masonic Code of Iowa, adopted in 1893, provides:

"Any member of a Lodge against whom charges are not pending, and whose dues and indebtedness to the Lodge are paid, may withdraw from membership by presenting a written application therefor at a stated communication. The Lodge shall grant the request of the brother by dropping his name from the rolls and his membership shall thereby be terminated and he shall be subjected to the disabilities of an unaffiliated Master Mason."

It will be observed it is his membership and not his Masonic rights that are terminated. His Masonic rights are abridged but not destroyed. He has left to him all the rights of an unaffiliated Mason. Under the holdings and provisions before referred to, it is quite clear that this does not and cannot affect his Templar standing in any respect. It is certainly very desirable that all Templars should remain members of Lodge and Chapter, but this is voluntary, and not compulsory on their part.

The legislation contained in Section 209 of the Masonic Code is taken from New York, and the Grand Commandery of that State holds that a voluntary withdrawal of membership by a member of a Lodge, under that provision, does not destroy his Templar rights or standing. See page 37 preceedings Grand Commandery of New York, 1882.

Bro. Babb seems to be in love with the Denver deliverance in the shape of a ritual as the following will show :

The rituals for the Order of the Red Cross and Temple adopted by the Grand Encampment at Denver were received about the middle of August, there being one for each subordinate Commandery and four copies for the officers of the Grand Commandery. On August 19th, I issued an order distributing the same, and they were promptly distributed by the Grand Recorder, and all other rituals of these orders were ordered to be returned to him.

These rituals received the careful and best thought of the best ritualists in the United States, and the unanimous vote of the Grand Encampment in their adoption. They have come to stay, and no material change can be expected for many years to come. I am glad to be able to report that the returns of the Inspectors show that they were at the date of inspection being worked by every Commandery in the State with but two exceptions, and in these two cases they are prepared to work them now, as I am advised. They have received the hearty and enthusiastic praise in nearly every instance of the Templars not only of Iowa, but the whole of the Grand Encampment. When worked as they should be, they are calculated to impress upon the hearts of all in the strongest manner possible the great and important lessons upon which our orders are founded.

There are several places in these rituals where there are more than one method allowed to certain parts of the work. In order to insure exact uniformity in the work in this Stpte, it was thought best to direct what form should be used in this jurisdiction. After consultation with others at the close of this Grand Commandery, it was determined what method should be used in such optional parts of the work, and in conformity with the views of those present at that time, I issued an order which was passed in each of said rituals before they were distributed, directing what method should be used in this State when more than one was allowed. Said orders are appended hereto.

We are not an expert in rituals, but are of the opinion, nevertheless,



that the one in use in this bailiwick, and which this one relegates to the rear, is much the best of the two. Like the revised version of the Scriptures, they differ from but are no improvement on the old.

Regarding "Templar Park," he has this to say :

The Trustees of Templar Park, in accordance with your directions at our last annual conclave, have erected an additional apartment building containing forty-eight rooms, which will accommodate ninety-six persons, and which have been furnished with the necessary cots, chairs, and tables. In addition to this, they have made a few other necessary improvements. I would call your attention to their report on this point and the cost of same. The work has been not only well but economically done.

There is more, but the above is enough to make you join with us in the earnest wish that the day may come in our life-time, when the Masonic and Templar Grand Bodies of Mississippi may own and annually occupy a similar Home somewhere on the coast, where the enjoyment of our annual Assemblies now so pleasant, would become many times more so.

A little reflection convinces us that we have, already, given our old friend and fellow "mutual" more space than even his superior excellence deserves, hence we say—Vale. Bro. Babb.

The proceedings are voluminous, but we must pass them. Total membership 4,116—again of 74.

Bro. J. C. W. Coxe & Co. are the authors of an excellent report on Correspondence, but its beauty is marred by the absence of Mississippi. Bro. Coxe fails to express any regret at the fact, which does not mend matters. We recall the old song: "Do they miss me at home," etc., and are constrained to say in reply: not to any large extent, they don't!

We copy a part of Bro. C.'s conclusion, in which he does a little moralizing, etc. :

Our pleasant task is done. Our journey through the thirty-seven jurisdictions reviewed has been one of unalloyed delight. No jarring note of discord has struck our ear: no sound of contention comes up from any quarter. Prosperity flings her flag to the winds of every section of the land. Every jurisdiction save one has increased its membership. The growth of the Templar host is steady, healthful, promising. The roster now shows nearly or quite one hundred thousand in line. The current year will doubtless largely swell the number. The usual Triennial ingathering may be confidently expected. A quickened zeal in view of the near approach of the Grand Encampment is but natural. Nor is it to be deprecated, if only zeal does not outrun discretion. Let high ideals be maintained, and all will be well. But we cannot afford to lower our standard of qualification for admission to the order. The aim should constantly be to keep the standard full high advanced. So far as we can judge this is being done. We can see no indication of defection anywhere. We sincerely hope that there will be none, but that every pestulant will be subjected to rigid scrutiny, and that none but the worthy will be permitted to enter our asylums. And those who have attained to that high honor should reflect credit on their profession and calling. A better and nobler crusade than those of the Middle Ages calls for our constancy and courage—our faith and fidelity. "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" An empty tomb is infinitely less than an imperilled soul. To rescue men from the thrall of evil habit: to quicken in them a keener sense of personal responsibility; to present high ideals of character and

service; to honor the real dignity of our imperial manhood by "plain living and high thinking;" to give to the family, to society, to the State the best service of which we are capable—these are aspirations worthy of the followers of Him who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister"—Immanuel, whose we are and whom we serve.

Sir D. W. Clements is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporter as before.

#### INDIANA—1894.

Fortieth Annual at Indianapolis, 18th of April. R.: E.: Simeon S. Johnson, Grand Commander, presiding; E.: Sir Wm. H. Smythe, Grand Recorder. Twelve Past Grand Commanders and representatives from all the Subordinate Commanderies were in attendance.

The address of Grand Commander is a "strictly business" document. We copy his "opening" in full:

"I welcome you to the Fortieth Annual Conclave of this Grand Body. The year that is now numbered with the past has been an eventful one in the history of our country and in the history of our Order."

That is all! We may have been asleep during the year. At all events we were not aware that there was, or is, anything serious the matter with either the country or the Order.

We read the following excerpt of "Foreign News," this A. M., which looks kind of bilious:

GEOGRAPHY AS SHE IS.—From a religious paper published in Leeds, England, the following instructive excerpt is taken:

A big revolution is going on in the United States of America, and there is little doubt that the government will be defeated. The dictator, Debs, has been driven from his palace, and he and his mistress are now hiding in the mountains. The greatest trouble has been experienced in the capital of Chicago, where Grover Cleveland has obtained complete control. The railroad at that place has been torn up and thrown into the Mississippi river, and the stock yard has been razed to the ground."

The chapter of geographical novelties will be complete if the Leeds paper will print a few lines about the village of New Orleans in the county of New Hampshire, or from Natchez, in the State of Vicksburg on the Jackson river.

Appropriate and fraternal mention is made of the dead of his own and sister Jurisdictions. He constituted one new Commandery, Wabash, No. 37.

*In re* the ritual he says: "So far as our Commanderies and Sir Knights have become proficient in its use, the expressions of its approval have been general, and it is to be hoped that we have now a ritual that will not need 'mending' for several generations." So mote it be!

He made several decisions, among them the following:

1. Statement of Case—A Companion petitioned for the Orders of Knighthood; answered all questions satisfactorily; committee made report; ballot ordered, when a member propounded the question, "how the Companion could answer the questions as he had." Eminent Commander then sent

a committee to further interrogate the petitioner, postponing ballot until next conclave.

Question. Was the action of the Eminent Commander and Commandery right?

Answer. No. Candidate had done all the law required him to do. A Grand or Subordinate Commandery can not require any additional qualifications for candidates than those "prescribed in the Constitution and Code of Grand Encampment." [See Templar Law, Sec. 3, page 87, Sec. 3, p. 90.] Ballot should have been taken immediately upon the report of the committee.

The facts in the case are peculiar, but I recognize that it is a dangerous experiment to interfere in the religious opinions of men, and am of the opinion that the requirements of the Grand Encampment are sufficient.

The case is peculiar for sure. What questions does a petitioner have to answer in Indiana, before ballot is had? We presume his decisions are correct according to the "code," but we would like to know the "true inwardness" of that "peculiar" case.

His dispensations were all proper. He incorporates some spicy correspondence into his address, between the Grand Commander of New York and himself, touching the amenities proper to be observed in appointing those useless but ornamental appendages known as Grand Representatives, which we would like to copy, if there were not so much of it. Suffice it to say, that it resulted in the retention of his commission by the appointment of G. C. Johnson, against the protest of G. C. Gaul, of New York, and the summary decapitation of New York's representative in Indiana by Bro. Gaul; but unfortunately, six months after his commission had expired, and he was, officially, dead as Julius Caesar. Let us have peace!

The proceedings are voluminous and contain several matters of interest but our space for Indiana is about filled. The order is in healthy shape.

Bro. N. R. Ruckle is again the author of the F. C. report, which covers 122 pages and dissects the transactions of nearly all the Grands. He opens with obituary notices of the dear departed from the ranks of the "Guild," which we would like to copy, but it is too long. His review of Mississippi is fraternal. God bless him.

Sir Chas. W. Slick is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### KANSAS—1894.

Twenty-fifth annual at Hutchinson, May 8th.

Sir Clark Gray, Grand Commander; Sir Dwight Byington, Grand Recorder: thirty-five Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is a good one. This being the 25th or "Silver" Conclave, the R. E. opens with a historical sketch of the organization, and phenomenal growth of the body, which, starting with a constituency of only 101, now has a membership of 3,110, distributed among forty-two Commanderies.

He has this to say of "Templarism."

Templarism is the crowning glory of Masonry. He who wears its insignia and shares its honors, without feeling the weight of its responsibilities and being thereby stimulated to higher efforts and nobler aspirations, proclaims himself destitute of those higher moral sensibilities which distinguish and adorn the true Knights of the Temple. Let us hope that such an one has never gained admittance to our asylums. As in the early history of the race, as typified in our mysteries, so today, the relentless foes of civil and social order, the implacable enemies of civilization, and human progress are those assassins of honor, integrity and moral and religious freedom—ignorance, falsehood and superstition. Against this powerful triumvirate, this triple alliance of the hosts of evil, the sword of each Knight Templar should ever flash, and in this contest his plume should ever wave in the battle's front.

He issued dispensations for four new Comimanderies and refused two applications.

They propose to indulge in a "Ritual" for Christmas service; for the preparation of and printing of which the committee asked \$228.38, under an appropriation of \$25, or so much thereof as might be necessary to cover the expense. Rituals are proverbially "costive," and this was no exception.

His special dispensations were all for proper purposes. His decisions were unimportant. He recommended a "Banquet" for the Grand Body in honor of the occasion, which they had and at a cost of \$387.75.

The proceedings are devoid of general interest. The Correspondence report is prefaced with the following, which explains itself:

Sickness and my continued feeble condition have rendered it a physical impossibility for me to prepare a Report on Correspondence, and I have called upon Sir John C. Postlethwaite, of the committee, to undertake the work, which, with his usual knightly courtesy, he promptly consented to do, and although the time was short to prepare the report, I have no doubt it will prove satisfactory.

To the Sir Knights of Kansas Sir Postlethwaite needs no introduction, and to the Guild he is possibly not an entire stranger, having served the Grand Lodge of Kansas as Grand Master and the Grand Chapter as Grand High Priest. With this brief announcement I commend Sir Postlethwaite's report to your careful consideration, and crave your charitable indulgence for my many misfortunes.

Courteously yours,

D. BYINGTON, Chairman.

Our Bro. Byington has our sincere sympathy in his trials, sufferings and misfortunes. May God bless and sustain him.

Since the foregoing was written, our dear brother entered into rest on 11th October.

Bro. Postlethwaite favors us with an excellent report in which the transactions of thirty-nine Templar Grand Bodies receive courteous and careful attention, Mississippi for 1893 among the number. We note that whenever Bro. Postlethwaite comes across a piece of poetry, he immediately clips it, which proves his taste to be rather more refined than that of the average "Mutual." We clip his closing:

Our pleasant journey, hastily made through the various Templar Jurisdctions, is at an end, and our duty, performed with many misgivings, completed. There is always a feeling of sadness to one called to fill the place of a departed brother, or one suffering the pains of sickness: and

when we consider the reputation among the reportorial corps of our late lamented Grand Recorder Brown, our report will only take the place of former reviews by "filling space." Nevertheless, under the circumstances in the brief space of time allotted us, and circumscribed by a "rush of business," we have done our best, and fraternally submit the effort, hoping that the "gleaners" may gather therefrom something that will enable them to follow more closely the Captain of their Salvation, and exemplify the life of a true Christian warrior.

Alex G. Robb is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### KENTUCKY--1894.

Forty-Seventh Annual at Paducah, May 16th and 17th. Sir T. J. Flournoy, R. E., Grand Commander; Lorenzo Dow Croninger, Grand Recorder.

The address is a short, but concise and well-written resume of his administration. We clip his opening as showing the condition of the order in that jurisdiction:

Sir Knights—We should be thankful to the Giver of all good gifts that so many of the old and familiar faces, who have met together year after year in attendance at our Grand Conclaves, are permitted to gather with us today, to legislate for the good of the Order in this Grand Jurisdiction, and to enjoy the pleasures of Knightly courtesies. I congratulate you upon the prosperous condition of the Order throughout the State, and while the annual returns of the Subordinate Commanderies for the past year do not show an increase in numbers so great as in former years, still our growth is encouraging. The financial reaction and business depression of the country have no doubt in some measure retarded our progress. The regulations of this Grand Commandery require that I should make report of my official acts for the past year. These I now lay before you and trust that they may meet with your approval.

He promulgated the new ritual in a General Order. His dispensations were all for proper purposes as the world wags. He decided that a Commandery could not exempt one of its members from annual dues, not including Grand Commandery dues, who had paid dues continuously for twenty-one years, and in support of his decision quoted a decision of the Grand Master, Gabin, in 1892, and this report of the Committee in Grand Encampment, which was adopted by that body, as follows:

A by-law providing that a Sir Knight, having been a member for twenty-one consecutive years, and having paid all dues charged against him, shall be exempt from payment of any dues except Grand Commandery dues is inconsistent with Title XIX, Section 9, of the Code, which provides the manner in which a member may be exempt from payment of annual dues, and Title XXXVIII, Section 9, is substantially to the same effect.

We quote the above not for the purpose of finding fault with the decision of Bro. Flournoy, because it was correct as the law is, but we wish to ask, in all seriousness, what the Grand Master or the Grand Encampment has to do, properly, with matters so entirely personal to Subordinate Commanderies? Aside from this, the reasoning is faulty, because each Commandery can elect to do or not

do this thing, as best suits them; hence the hardship on the younger members in the support of the Commandery amounts to nothing, as it was and is voluntarily assumed. Time will soon pass when they, too, will be in line to receive this mark of appreciation of long and continued faithful service. Unless a halt is called soon the Subordinate Commanderies will be stripped of every right and prerogative that is worth having, and the Grand Encampment will prescribe the smallest details of their domestic economy. In this connection we clip the following from the Committee on Jurisprudence, to which the matter was referred:

Your committee understands that the remanding of the life-member to full membership would divest the life-member of a vested right, and of well-earned and vested Masonic standing, acquired under the law of his Commandery in force at the time of the vesting of this right and Masonic standing—and this would result from a ruling made long after the vesting of such right and standing. Your committee can not agree with this view, nor approve of such result.

Your committee is firm in its opinion, that where life-membership has been acquired by a member of a Subordinate Commandery by and under compliance with the laws of his Commandery in force at the time this right vested in him, such life-membership can not be taken from him against his will by any subsequent legislation, or by any decision made, after the vesting of such right in such member, as to the law under which such life membership was acquired.

The proceedings are local.

Our good old friend, Bro. Woodruff, is again the progenitor of the Correspondence report, which is, as a matter of course, a good one. He digests the doings of forty-two Templar Grand Lodges, Mississippi for 1893 receiving very pleasant notice. We copy as follows, anent his remarks on our report:

The conclusion of our Report on Correspondence is reproduced and preceded by such courteous and brotherly words of affection and real interest in us, that we not only receive them with gratitude, but are led to express the hope that our dear friend may be restored to his former health, and that his usefulness may be further extended through a long life in the land where we are but sojourners as our fathers were.

In the report is interpolated an able paper by Sir Knight Frederic Speed, reviewing the position of Sir Knight Enoch T. Carson on the formation of the Grand Encampment. The distinguished Sir Knight assumes to establish the plausibility of the following statements with which his article commences:

For our brother's kindly wishes we are more than grateful. May God abundantly bless him always.

Under the heading "Special Subject," our brother treats the subject of Grand Representatives in an able, exhaustive and sensible manner—the present imbroglio between New York and Indiana on this line being, as we presume his text. In his review of New York, and referring to the strained relations existing between the two bodies, and following the endorsement by the Special Committee of the Grand Commandery's action in regard to Indiana, he remarks:

We have greatly enjoyed the honor of holding commissions as Grand Representative during many years without the slightest apprehension of the dangers surrounding the position, but if the Grand Representative system is found to be loaded with such explosive matter as above indi-

cated, the sooner it blows itself to the demnition Bow-wows, the better for the peace of mind of Grand Commanders, and for the patience of Grand Commanderies.

Closing his "Special" plea, above referred to, he says:

The whole thing has outlived any usefulness it may have possibly possessed, and having become a hateful agent of discord, it must be forthwith abolished, thus removing in good time from the Templar horizon such a baleful influence.

In which we do not concur. These appendages, while utterly worthless from a practical point of view, are not without their use, serving, as they do, in the capacity of bric-a-brac or ornamental furniture. The danger of explosion is so remote as to cut no figure in the calculation. Bro. W.'s closing is good, but is too long to copy and can't be divided.

R. E.: Sir Jas. Dysart Lewis is Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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#### LOUISIANA—1894.

Forty-first Annual at New Orleans, February 16, 1894. Chas. F. Buck, R. E.: Grand Commander; Sir Richard Lambert, P. G. C.: Grand Recorder. Three Subordinate Commanderies represented.

Our old and valued friend Rev. W. K. Douglass, Grand Prelate, led in the Devotional Office at opening. Bro. Douglass was once a member and Grand Prelate of our Grand Commandery, and has many warm personal friends in this Jurisdiction. May the Good Lord bless him always.

The address is a short but elegant paper, from a finished gentleman and Templar, whose handsome and intelligent phiz adorns the title-page. He opens as follows:

Sir Knights: I greet you under what I may justly designate fairly auspicious conditions, to the Thirty-first Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery; I fear we have not done everything which, as Knights Templar, we should have done; but we have not done anything detrimental, nor left undone anything reasonably within our duty. Officially, I have had absolutely nothing to do; that is to say, with the one exception presently noted. I have been asked no questions: had no opinions to give or decisions to render.

It is something in this connection to bear in mind that this is evidence of the prevalence of peace and good order, and of the well-established regularity with which our Commanderies do their work and administer their affairs.

Death had been busy in the Pelican State, and appropriate tribute is paid to those who have doffed their armor and entered eternal rest. Peace to their ashes!

The proceedings contain nothing of general interest. Total membership 293, a gain of 9.

The report on Correspondence is a heavy and unique production, to which is attached the names of P. E. G. M. J. Q. A. Fellows and P. E. C. C. Richard Lambert. We copy a slice of the report—quite a large one, too—if we leave out the statistics (we call them "statistics" for want of a better name) and the review of the Grand Encampment:

There are scattered through the proceedings many decisions and rulings on questions of law and usage, most of them growing out of the by-laws of the several Grand Commanderies, but which in no wise concerns us in Louisiana, unless they come in conflict with the statutes of the Grand Encampment, while the others are interpretations of those statutes, or perhaps in violation of them, without, apparently, having taken notice that such statutes exist; and with this we have nothing to do. All we could do would be to criticise such rulings as we thought conflicting with the paramount law, and this would be of no effect unless brought before the Grand Encampment, referred by it to its Committee on Templar Jurisprudence, and on its report finally passed upon by the Grand Encampment itself. We do not propose, in this report, to set ourselves up as the Grand Encampment, nor even its Committee on Templar Jurisprudence, much less to make ourselves in a way, scavengers, to bring to the notice of the Grand Master what we may conceive to be violations of the Constitution and Code of the Grand Encampment, nor do we think it becoming in us to criticise the local statutes and customs of Grand Commanderies, they being purely personal to them, and with which we have nothing to do.

Passing by all these matters, and having given the result of the work in the several Grand Commanderies, etc., and a list of the Grand Commanders, Grand Recorders and Chairmen of the Committees on Correspondence with their respective postoffice addresses, we find we have eliminated very much of the matter contained in the printed proceedings which we have had under review, and have left comparatively little of which to make further notice. We have already remarked that in all the Grand Commandery jurisdictions, a fair condition of prosperity is shown by the returns of work as exhibited in our tables, and we may add that peace and harmony generally prevails, as it should among those instructed in the tenets of Templar Masonry.

There seems to be a general acquiescence in the Ritual adopted at Denver, and that question is and should be, now at rest. Some dissatisfaction in a few places seems to exist as to the Constitution and Code. The present Constitution never was satisfactory to the writer, and he was the only one who voted against its adoption at Hartford, Conn., in 1856. He deemed it incongruous and ill-digested, so he thought, and amendments made to it since have not improved it in these respects. Yet as the Grand Encampment at its last session referred the Constitution and Code to a Special Committee for revision, to be reported in time for action before the next biennial session at Boston in 1895, and as that committee has completed its labors, it may be supposed that that question will also be settled, it is to be hoped as satisfactorily as was the Ritual in 1892, and as was the subject of uniform several years ago: all these questions being also eliminated, there remains still less for us to pass in review and report upon.

We might take up each pamphlet of the proceedings of Grand Commanderies and quote sentiments of the Grand Commanders, finely and well expressed, with approval, but the limits which are allotted to this report prevent any such excursions.

We cannot commend the plan of review adopted by our brethren, but as it suits THEM we have no right to complain.

Grand Commander, Grand Recorder and Correspondents as before.

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#### MONTANA—1894.

Sixth Annual at Billings, September 18th. Albert L. Babcock, Grand



Commander: Cornelius Hedges, Grand Recorder: eight Subordinates (all) were represented. The address of Grand Commander covers but two pages—about as brief as Sir Ferguson's last year, which Cornelius says is "the shortest on record." What the R. E. had to say, however, he said in plain, good English, and when he got through he quit—an example we commend to some of our clerical brethren when in the pulpit. It is a great thing in preaching and speechmaking to know when to stop.

He recommended a pooling of means, etc., with neighboring Grand Commanderies, who, like Montana, are weak financially, with a view of jointly having headquarters, etc., at Boston. The idea is a good one for us to adopt, if we can carry it out. He recommended an appropriation of \$300.00 to procure a banner for the Grand Commandery, which was agreed to. Bro. Cornelius Hedges, Grand Recorder, recommended an appropriation of \$100 to pay for binding the accumulating proceedings in his office, which was rejected! Showing that our Montana brethren prefer "Banners" to Literature! We do not admire their choice.

The minutes are as short as brevity itself.

A public installation of officers was had, followed by a banquet. The following closes the minutes:

"P. S.—The ladies were soon back again after closing, and beauty and chivalry held a delightful seance around a sumptuous banquet-board, where wit, eloquence and other things sparkled gaily for a couple of hours."

We infer from the "P. S." that "Mumm's Extra Dry" was one of the concomitants of the menu. If so, we beg to file this, our solemn protest, against it.

Total membership 3,371, a gain of 3!

The principal dish on the table before us, is the Correspondence report by Bro. Hedges, which covers forty-five pages of the pamphlet. The balance of the lay-out, includes names of members of Subordinate Commanderies, covering 32 pages. Most of the Templar legislatures receive courteous attention and in our brother's own inimitable style—Mississippi for 1894, among the rest. Bro. Cornelius is nothing, if not a first-class reviewer. There are many, *many* excellent thoughts, things and hits in the paper, that we would like to clip, but the report is so constructed that it is a pity to mutilate it. He is still thirsting for Moslem gore and the expulsion of the infidel from the Holy Land. It would be a blessed thing if the entire lay-out could be wiped from the face of the earth. The recent massacre of the Armenians by the Turks, calls loudly for the intervention, stern and prompt, of every Christian or civilized government on earth, but the present outlook is not at all flattering in that direction. A Turk, like our noble Red Man, is never good or to be trusted, until he is dead. Then, we beg to say: Go it, Cornelius! we are with you, either as quartermaster or commander-in-chief.

His review of Mississippi is interesting and fraternal. We copy a couple of pages for your edification:

The report of the Committee on Templar Law by Past Grand Commanders Speed, Paxton, Savery, which was adopted by the Grand Commandery, is in conflict with title LXI of the Grand Encampment Code? It holds that by becoming a non-affiliate in Lodge or Chapter, a "Templar in Mississippi does lose his standing in Commandery. Such non-affiliate by the law of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi and of California, and it is much the same in Montana, "he is not in good standing and cannot visit Lodges nor enjoy any of the privileges accorded to members of a Lodge." This would seem to cut off association with those of good standing in Commandery as well as elsewhere. The Mississippi Committee says that the Grand Lodge is higher than the Grand Encampment and their first and highest duty is to sustain the Grand Lodge when the two are irreconcilable.

The question concerns us in Montana as well as our Frater in Mississippi, and the question arises: "What are we going to do about it?" It occurs to us that there is but one bare chance to reconcile the apparent conflict: The language of the Grand Encampment Code is that, "by merely becoming a non-affiliate in Lodge or Chapter, a Templar does not lose his standing in the Commandery." It occurs to us that this language is intended to apply only in jurisdictions where no other disabilities are attached to non-affiliation. The word "merely" in the Templar Code seems to us to justify such limitation and does not attempt to limit Grand Lodges or Grand Chapters in their right to impose other disabilities which would render good standing in the Commandery impossible.

It is a matter of the utmost importance that this question be thoroughly considered. If true that these laws of two Sovereign Grand Bodies are irreconcilable, the question arises, to which do we owe our first and highest allegiance? The Blue Lodge is the first and oldest, the foundation of all Masonry, and our earliest vows were plighted at her altars. We cannot repudiate them without renouncing all that rests upon or grows out of the great parent stock. If the foundation is undermined the whole superstructure must fall. It seems to us that Templarism owes it to the principle and interest of its own preservation, to see that the Lodge is not undermined, and that no legislation should be allowed to stand which is even apparently in conflict with legislation deemed necessary to the life and prosperity of the Lodge.

When the Grand Encampment next meets, this question will have to be settled, and those who represent Montana at the Boston Triennial, should thoroughly understand the issue. The reading of this Mississippi report will throw much light on the subject.

Frater E. G. DeLap renders another of his interesting reviews, and we assure him they are read always with pleasure approaching admiration. In his introduction he seems to lament the dearth of exciting topics and chance for a scrimmage. Bro. Speed can furnish him one of the first rank. We appreciate the difficulty of falling into ruts, but we know of no one who is more successful than himself in keeping out of them and interesting his readers. We think he has done good service in puncturing some of the wind-bags on which a few gaudily-inclined Fraters delight to float into notoriety. Still we have enough of our boyish spirit left, when there is any general parade or music in the air, to make us feel lonesome if the old flag is not there.

Nor do we think there is any impropriety in Templars turning out on other occasions than those strictly Masonic. If others think different it is their misfortune and we shall not vex our soul thereat.

In his pleasant notice of Montana, he rallies us some on our Palestine hobby, but generously consents to accept the post of quartermaster for the campaign. As we have reserved the position of high private for our-

selves, he thinks we shall be lonesome and will have to sustain alone the brunt of the fighting. This does not at all dishearten us, for we have full faith in the justice and merits of our cause, and we expect to live to see the Turks hustled out of Palestine. If the Knights are so devoid of sentiment and sense of propriety, we know that we could enlist the ladies and then the gallant Knights would be ashamed to stand back. As soon as we can we shall make a preliminary survey of the situation and will report results.

For something we said last year commenting upon a California transaction, we expected to be jerked up for heterodoxy, but we did not expect it from such a broad-minded and true-hearted a Christian as Sir George, and we hesitate some to think he is serious about it.

The question addressed to our Saviour, whether few or many would be saved, was not directly answered, but was put aside for one more pertinent to each individual, but we have always thought that if the answer had been given it would have been "many" rather than "few." If it is only a hope, we will cling to that straw. We are not much of a theologian, but hope we are no less a Christian on that account.

We beg to assure our good brother that our squib of last year, to which he refers, was written in the same spirit—that of pleasantry—as was the utterances we were talking about. There is not one Presbyterian in a thousand that, in his heart, believes in the "Eternal Decrees." Election and Reprobation, and kindred vagaries of the Westminster Catechism, hence we had no idea of treading on Bro. Cornelius' toes when we suggested that there is no telling where or who the lightning of "Election" may strike. We hope to be, with our brother, one of the "many" that will be saved, but it will not be by virtue of election, but by the exercise of a free moral agency coupled with infinite mercy and divine grace. But the time has come to say good bye and God be with you 'till we meet again.

Sir M. C. Riley is Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MAINE—1894.

Forty-third Annual at Portland, May 3, being Ascension Day: R. E. Horace H. Burbanks, Grand Commander: Sir Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder: eighteen Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address of Grand Prelate Ogden, is an elegant paper, being an eloquent dissertation on the Ascension of our Lord, all of which we would be glad to copy, but it is too long. We appropriate the conclusion as being sufficiently didactic to justify the expense of printing:

Now, to help men "to be" you must deal with them by different means from those you would use if you want to help them to do or to feel. If you want to make them feel, you would work on their emotions; you would read to them a tragic poem or sing them a pathetic song. If you want to make them do, you would stand over them with a lash or superintend the work until it is completed. But if you want to make them be,

you must get some lifting power to work on them. You must bridge over the distance between the spiritual and the natural, that the higher force may lift them up so that the spiritual may flow into the common life. You must try them in difficult circumstances, leave them alone sometimes, just as you have seen an infant trying to walk; you must let them be tried and put to the proof: you must let them exert their powers; and then, not only does their being what they are come out, but it grows and is strengthened and ripened by the training. And it is so in regard to our Lord's work. His unseen presence makes demands upon us, and brings out from us something better; touches greater depths within us, and the doubts and perplexities He allows are a part of our trial and discipline, the furnace to purify the gold.

If He were here to clear them up, the highest work would be left undone: man's highest possibilities would be dormant, for faith would be impossible. In this word faith we get at the root of the matter. If his presence were not unseen, if we had certainty as to action and a fixed rule, with no possibility of going wrong, faith could not exist on its highest side, for faith is realization of things hoped for, and insight into things invisible.

It sees what is out of sight as though it were here. It sees Him in His invisible presence, and it brings a far greater blessing than sight. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed.

Faith is the one characteristic which raises man above the animal, above the natural, without which he cannot please God or be of any use to men.

Faith, as a moral faculty, puts you face to face with the treasures of the universe, and where others see nothing, you see everything: where others see only bands of Syrians, you see the angels of God; where others see a blind force, you see the workings of a right loving will overruling all things. And you are rich for the sight, you grow, you increase, you become more and more conscious of the possibilities of your own life and of the universe, and you grow into the possibilities which you see.

But without faith you grovel through a naked, starved existence, seeing emptiness everywhere, because you are so empty: seeing darkness in every noble deed, because you are so dark: seeing all things dead and dying, because you have no life in you, with no enthusiasm, no stirring within you at great and glorious sights, but poor and weak and barren, because you have no faith, no insight, and therefore no goodness.

If Christ were not out of sight, if He were still at Jerusalem, to be seen and talked to, it would be much harder.

It is hard enough now to get to know God by trusting him, to get the little bits, on which we rest our confidence in Him, pieced together, and find out their relation, but it is possible.

As we walk with the unseen Christ, we get surer and surer, but we do so because He is unseen, and so we walk on to that great world, where at last we get an answer; where all the little bits of insight and the visions under the fig tree shall grow together, and we shall see those greater things, and there will be peace.

May God bring us all through the struggles and the partings which cost us so much, to that perfect vision.

The Grand Commander's address is strictly business—very little sentiment, excepting in his opening which is as follows:

SIR KNIGHTS—I greet you. I cordially welcome you all to this the

Forty-third Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery. Grateful for Divine blessings continuously vouchsafed to us during the year, and invoking Divine guidance while we deliberate, I bespeak that harmony, candor and tolerance which are the guarantees of wise and successful action.

We are, on this Ascension Day, reminded of the Great Teacher of men: Shall we not imitate our worthy exemplar in the virtues of patience, forbearance, unselfishness and devotion to others' weal, which so brightly illumine the record of His life? Uplooking to such an ideal, upholding our Standard of Truth, shall we not strive to lessen the span between the real and ideal? In full confidence in your answer to these questions, I bring to you matters past and present for earnest consideration, sound wisdom and zealous aspiration for best attainable results.

He authorized several Pilgrimages and reception of "Pilgrimages," which we presume is all right. His decisions are sound as a dollar. The proceedings are devoid of general interest. The Order is in a healthy state. Total membership, 2756.

The Correspondence is the nineteenth production of the kind from Sir Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder, and considers the transactions of forty-five Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1893, among the number. His review of Mississippi is quite extensive. He copies from Grand Commander's address, Bro. Power's report of the Denver trip, and referring to Sir Palmer, and remarks: "He was not the oldest Mason in the world, as there are many still living who were made between 1816 and 1822, when he took the degrees."

We infer from our brother's attention to our report that he is not an admirer of your committee or his style, stating, inferentially, that we are not "civil" in our deliverances. We regret this, not alone because we value the good will and regard of all good men, but because we had always esteemed our brother of Maine above the general average and had hoped that the sentiment was reciprocal. We copy:

The correspondence (57 pp.) is by Sir E. George DeLap, their veteran correspondent. He declines any indulgence on account of illness, and claims the right to express his views freely, according the same freedom to others. We agree with the last part of it, but, personally, cannot help admiring the opinion of the celebrated British pugilist, who taught that the best guard was a civil tongue.

And this, with the query, what would YOU have done else?

He explains to California that Frater Cross's plagiarized sermon was simply an accidental omission to give credit.

Also this:

He objects to our report, that we copy more than we write. When we are in company with very able people we feel anxious not to talk too much.

There is a covert sneer in the above, alike uncalled for and unworthy of its distinguished author. However, we have always admired humility, not investigating, particularly, whether it is real or assumed, and shall, therefore, respect our brother's discretion. Possibly it would be as well for him to say as little as possible when we are around. We copy his table statistical with thanks:

GRAND COMMANDERIES.	Subordinates.	Members.	Knighted.	Affiliated.	Re-instated.	Dimitted.	Suspended & Dropped.	Expelled.	Deceased.	Our Last Re- port.
Alabama, May 9, 1894.	10	368	34	4	1	7	18	3	10	357
Arkansas, April 17, '94	11	497	48	4	3	3	13	1	10	494
California, April 19, '94	33	2819	123	35	15	36	40	..	53	2790
Colorado, June 6, 1893	22	1583	212	51	5	56	9	1	15	1583
Conn., March 20, 1894.	11	2099	105	6	1	9	1	..	29	2029
Georgia, May 9, 1894..	10	647	70	11	4	28	1	..	19	597
Illinois, Oct. 24, 1893..	61	8881	588	94	31	201	105	3	108	8523
Indiana, April 18, 1894	36	3309	194	33	9	86	44	1	51	3255
Iowa, July 12, 1893....	54	4202	283	64	4	118	35	4	42	4049
Kansas, May 9, 1893....	34	2938	428	149	5	135	32	..	25	2938
Kentucky, May 16, '94.	25	1869	113	12	5	30	28	..	24	1821
Louisiana, Feb. 16, '94	3	293	19	4	...	1	4	..	9	280
Maine, May 3, 1894....	19	2756	150	21	2	16	8	..	32	2645
Maryland, Nov. 28, '93	8	956	76	3	5	16	15	..	10	920
Mass. & R. I., Oct. 26, '93	44	9911	654	45	5	116	86	2	176	9589
Michigan, May 15, '94.	44	5098	278	38	12	121	62	4	58	5000
Minn., June 25, 1894....	25	2280	140	34	5	52	52	..	37	2243
Mississippi, Feb. 13, '94	11	387	48	2	3	10	31	..	9	360
Missouri, April 24, '94.	58	4003	217	61	16	89	59	..	41	3929
Montana, Oct. 10, 1893.	8	334	19	5	1	6	10	1	2	332
Nebraska, April 3, 1894	23	1656	134	21	7	46	24	1	15	1580
N. Hamp., Sept. 26, '93	10	1821	117	5	...	7	8	1	25	1740
New Jersey, May 8, '94	16	1655	81	10	...	23	20	..	20	1626
New York, Sept. 12, '93	57	10,018	886	51	81	109	138	4	166	9416
N. Carolina, May 8, '94	12	339	20	3	...	6	1	1	4	285
N. Dak., June 15, 1894..	7	365	31	1	1	16	...	..	3	229
Ohio, Oct. 10, 1893....	52	7376	464	60	37	112	109	8	90	7134
Oregon, Oct. 12, 1893..	6	368	35	6	...	30	...	..	2	327
Penn., May 23, 1893....	71	9628	712	150	...	175	135	1	147	9532
S. Dakota, June 19, '93	9	660	87	20	4	27	6	..	6	660
Tennessee, May 9, 1894	16	1094	61	17	2	25	23	2	15	1096
Texas, April 14, 1894..	31	1975	180	27	7	70	43	1	20	1941
Vermont, June 12, 1894	10	1323	70	3	1	15	3	..	15	1281
Virginia, Oct. 12, 1893	19	1251	120	13	1	64	14	..	13	1247
Wash'n, June 9, 1893..	9	509	57	39	...	6	1	..	6	509
W. Vir., May 9, 1894....	10	726	49	10	2	10	12	..	14	701
Wisconsin, June 11, '94	26	2724	147	26	27	87	4	..	28	2487
Wyoming, May 9, 1894	5	221	30	...	...	3	2	..	2	198
G. En. subordinates, '92	30	2653	330	38	18	49	38	..	56	2653
Total, in U. S., 1894.	946	101,592	7410	1176	320	2016	1233	39	1407	98,376
Canada, July 18, 1893.	31	1116	105	21	5	29	20	..	20	1053
Eng. & Wales, May, '93	104	3000	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	3000
Ireland, 1894 .....	41	1300	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1300
Scotland, 1894 .....	10	450	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	450
Victoria, Australia, 1889	4	80	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	80
Total in world, 1894.	1136	107,538	7517	1197	325	2045	1253	39	1427	104,259

Sir W. J. Landers is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporter as before.

## MARYLAND—1893.

Two Special Conclaves were held during the year, at which nothing of interest to the general Templar public transpired.

Twenty-third annual at Baltimore, November 28th; Sir Wm. Hy Ruby, Grand Commander; Sir John Hy Miller, Grand Recorder. Eight Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is an interesting, well-written and quite lengthy document, and worthy of its author, whose venerable and intellectual phiz adorns the pamphlet. He opens as follows:

In accordance with constitutional requirement, I have the pleasure to present for your consideration the condition of Templar Masonry in Maryland since my induction into the responsible and dignified position of Grand Commander.

Our grateful acknowledgements are due to Divine Providence that the reaper, Death, has not visited this Grand Body and taken any of its officers, though he has called two Past Commanders to a higher sphere. I refer to Past Commanders Joseph E. Tyler and Chas. G. Fox, of Crusade Commandery, No. 5. They were zealous and faithful Sir Knights, and held the friendship of not only their own Commandery, but of all the Sir Knights who enjoyed their acquaintance. I recommend that a page in our records be set apart to their memory.

Little has occurred throughout the Templar year save routine work, so that the administration of the duties of Grand Commander have been most pleasant. In the discharge of these duties I have been cheerfully assisted by that zealous Templar, E. Sir John H. Miller, Recorder, who has been instant in season and out of season in the discharge of all his multifarious duties.

A new Masonic Temple in Baltimore, built on the ashes of an elegant one, was dedicated during the year, which speaks in unmistakable terms of the energy and pluck of the Craft and the Order in Maryland. The address closes as follows:

With the consciousness that you believe I have endeavored faithfully to perform all the duties entrusted to me, invoking the choicest blessings of Heaven upon every Sir Knight in this loved jurisdiction who wields his sword in the defense of those solemn duties for which his glittering blade flashed, and cherishing a lively recollection of twenty two years of pleasant labor amongst you as valiant Knights of the Temple, I shall not be as he who "wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams," but I expect and pray the Grand Commander of the universe that He will give me the health and strength to fight on and fight ever the battle, lifting high the Banner of the Cross, so that the world may see those emblazoned words,

*"In hoc signo vinces."*

The proceedings are local. Order in excellent shape. Total membership 956—a gain of 36.

An old friend and Bro., P. G. C. F. J. S. Gorgas, is the architect, as usual, of the correspondence report, which is, also as usual, "all wool and a yard wide." A large majority of the members of the Templar family receive careful consideration and courteous attention in this paper. Mississippi for 1893 gets pleasant notice. He naively asks: "What will church-going people think of Sir DeLap?" To which we beg to reply: Just what they please; probably that he is a crank! We "cawn't" help it, however, if they do. We are possibly as regular in our attendance on

the means of grace as our neighbors, hence are not in the heathen category.

Bro. G. closes as follows:

Wyoming ends our report, and reminds us that another Templar year, with its joys and its sorrows has been added to the past.

Cherished fraters, whose welcome words have annually greeted us, and whose pleasant faces have been wreathed with smiles when it has been our privilege to meet at the Triennial Conclaves, are now silent in the sleep that knows no awakening in this life, and every coming year will add to the list of the departed whose names have been as familiar as those of the most cherished friends. But the present yet remains to many of us, and turning aside from sad thoughts we can exclaim:

"Joy, our Temple stands complete."

The close of the Templar year finds us in our new Asylum, which, as our proceedings show, has been duly consecrated to Christian Knighthood. Our sojourning is over, and

"Now those that are worthy  
Our 'pilgrimages' who have shared  
And proved themselves faithful  
Shall meet their reward."

But a portion of our conclusion must be given to the elucidation of a term which is peculiar to our jurisdiction, and which has excited comment from others, namely—"Line of Knights." E. Sir Daniel A. Piper, who died in June, 1875, had been for many years the exponent of the rituals of the Symbolic, Capitular and Templar degrees to the Masons of Maryland, and by him the title, "Line of Knights," was applied to the first three officers of a Subordinate Commandery, and also to the first four officers of the Grand Commandery. Hence, when it is considered best to refer any business to the highest officers of a Grand or Subordinate Commandery, the motion reads, "referred to the Line of Knights."

With best wishes for health and happiness, a pleasant Christmas, and a prosperous new year to all fraters, and a determination to pledge, at the proper time, our M. E. Grand Master.

Sir Jas. P. Clark is Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MICHIGAN—1894.

Thirty-eighth Annual at Kalamazoo. May 15th. Sir Hy. L. Anthony, Grand Commander: Sir John A. Gerow, Grand Recorder.

The irrepressible speech-maker, "our Hugh" McCurdy, Grand Master, received the first attention of the Grand Body, and "responded in his usual happy and eloquent vein," from which we quote as follows:

Right Eminent Sirs and Fraters: Your friendly words of welcome find in me far more of welcome than I have words to express.

It is said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh, yet we all know that the greater the abundance of the heart the less abundant the mouth's power to speak. One's deepest thoughts are never spoken.

"I wonder if ever the sculptor wrought,  
Till the cold marble echoed his inmost thought,  
Or if ever a painter with light and shade  
The fondest dream of his heart portrayed."

\* \* \* \* \*



There are too many Freemasons to-day who are Freemasons only in name; who give to their fellow-men no better evidence of Masonic character than a badge, symbol, word, and these are really no evidence whatever. Too many there are who wear the uniform, the badge, the sword, the plume, and yet have never really tasted of the fountain of its living waters. We need schools of Masonry. We need symbols, badges, and Masonic temples; but most of all we need Masons, students of Freemasonry—men who are not only able to find their way into these temples built by hands, but who are able to find their way into the human heart—the true temple; men who by good deeds and kindly lives are continually giving the grand Masonic sign that they are dwellers in that temple whose builder and maker is the Great Architect of the Universe.

I know full well, Sir Knights, that I am standing in a temple built by men who are students of Freemasonry. Men in whose presence I stand only as I partake of their spirit. Men whose best welcome is their own pure lives. May I receive from you, my Fraters, not what you have of all good to be heard, tested and seen, but may I receive from you what you are.

"I take of worthy men what'er they give. Their heart I gladly take."

After this the Mayor of "Kalamazoo" indulged in a neat little address of welcome, when the business of the session began.

The address of Grand Commander is quite lengthy, being an epitome of his administration. He opens as follows:

Sir Knights: By the gracious favor of Almighty God we are again permitted to meet in Annual Conclave, to renew our associations and friendships, attend our devotions, and legislate, I trust, for the best good of our beloved Order.

Another year with its hopes and fears, its joys and sorrows has, like a meteor, flashed across our sky, and has gone into the great ocean of the hereafter. To some it has brought health, honor, prosperity, and happiness; and to others sickness, sorrow, and burdensome care. Whatever of good or evil that may have fallen to our share, let us have faith to believe that "He doeth all things well."

Under "Necrology" we find the following General Order concerning the death of our long-time friend and beloved brother, the lamented W. P. Innes:

HEADQUARTERS GRAND COMMANDERY,  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, STATE OF MICHIGAN.  
OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER,  
STURGIS, MICH., Aug. 9, 1893.

To all Knights Templar within the Jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery:

"General Innes is dead," was the painful intelligence that flashed over the wires conveying the news to the Masons of Michigan. After a long illness, and days and nights of weary waiting, our beloved Grand Recorder surrendered to the "grim messenger" only after the "ammunition gave out." Surrounded by his family and friends, his spirit peacefully took its flight on the morning of August 2, 1893, at the age of 67 years.

No word of mine can add to the glory of his great name. That he was a man and a Mason beloved and honored, that he came and went among us and always received the hearty welcome his presence was sure to win, that he was a tower of strength and wisdom to the Masons of Michigan and the world, are facts known to us all.

He sustained the sufferings of his last illness with the same sweet trust and confidence with which he met and conquered the ills of daily life.

" How sweet a life was his, how sweet a death,  
 Living to wing with mirth the weary hours,  
 Or with his genial tales the heart to cheer.  
 Dying, to leave a memory, like the heath  
 Of summer, full of sunshine and of flowers,  
 A grief and gladness in the atmosphere."

What a noble life was here, full of manly virtue, humane, charitable and patriotic deeds. The name and memory of the "Hero of Lavergne" will be enshrined in the hearts of his friends and countrymen, and live in history long after his mortal remains shall have crumbled into dust, and shall prove to us an eternal heritage.

Right Eminent Sir William P. Innes was elected Grand Commander of this Grand Commandery at the Annual Conclave of 1860—serving in that capacity for one year. In 1871 he was elected Grand Recorder of this Grand Body, holding the position continuously and faithfully until his death.

As a token of respect it is ordered that this notice be spread upon the records of all the Commanderies in this jurisdiction, and also be read at the head of the lines at the first regular Conclave after the receipt of same. It is also ordered that all officers and Sir Knights wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of sixty days from the promulgation hereof, and that the banners of the Grand Commander and of the Subordinate Commanderies be suitably draped, for the same length of time.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Commandery, the day and year above written.

HENRY L. ANTHONY, Grand Commander.

Attest:

JOHN A. GEROW, Grand Recorder.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the distinguished dead of both his own and other jurisdictions. His dispensations were all for sensible purposes.

The R. E. seems to be hankering after more latitude in the direction of parade-days, as the following will show:

"Section 33 of Article 12 of the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment, provides that 'a Commandery should appear in public in Templar costume only on Masonic occasions, and a dispensation for that purpose should be restricted to such an occasion.' I have been obliged to decline requests for dispensations that did not come strictly within the meaning of this statute, in some instances much to my regret, firmly believing, as I do, that more frequent appearances of our Commanderies in public, especially those in the smaller cities and towns would prove of great benefit.

I only call attention to this existing state of things in the hope that it may prove an entering wedge to influence future legislation, knowing that the Grand Master is within the sound of my voice, and knowing also that he might, if he would, prove a powerful factor in moulding such legislation, as would look to an enlargement of the privileges of the Knights Templar, in this direction. I believe it would be a perfectly safe course to pursue, if this subject of public parades were left largely to the sound discretion and good judgment of the various Grand Commanders.

No stronger or more reasonable appeal could be made for the repeal of this statute, than that offered by the present M. E. Grand Master when he honored the position of Grand Commander of this Grand Jurisdiction. I quote his words: "Knight Templarism is imbedded in the principles of military discipline, and to forego its character, is to lose sight of the grand history of the crusades. The sword and plume of the Knight are the distinctive features that mark us from all other orders of

the day, and to repress public parade would be to give up the sword to corrosion and the plume to the moth. To abandon public parade would be to rob the Templar of his lofty character by reducing him to the status of a carpet Knight.

I earnestly hope to see this grand body put itself on record in favor of a larger liberty in this direction.

We earnestly hope it never will. We note that the Law Committee, to which this matter was referred, made the following deliverance on the subject: " \* \* \* and commend the subject of future legislation as to public parades to Grand Encampment for such action as that body may see fit to take." We have not sized up our Bro. McCurdy, the G. M., correctly, if he is in favor of the change.

Nothing startling in the minutes. The Order is in capital shape. The Correspondence is the work of P. G. C. John A. Gerow. Grand Recorder, who is a worthy successor of the lamented Innes. His portrait precedes the report, and shows him to be not only very handsome but pleasant-faced, and of more than ordinary ability. A man with his face never does a mean thing, hence we shall have no trouble with him.

We copy his salutatory :

In presenting you this, our first report on Correspondence, we crave your indulgence, and trust that in judging of the merits or demerits of this report, you will make due allowance for our inexperience in matters of this sort.

We have endeavored to select the brightest sentiments expressed by some of the ablest minds in our Order, and to present a synopsis of the doings in our sister jurisdictions, in the hope that what is here presented may be of some service to the members of our noble Order.

If we have succeeded in this, then are we amply repaid for all the labor performed in preparing this report.

Of the mutuals, we expect that they will bear in mind that this is our noviate, and not judge us by the standard of our illustrious predecessor, whose mind, enriched by years of labor in this field, was a mine of inexhaustible riches from which to draw inspiration. His life, like the

Lives of great men oft remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime.  
And departing, leave behind us,  
Footsteps on the sands of time:  
Footsteps that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Bro. G. gets up an excellent report, reviewing most of the Templar family. Mississippi is in her proper place, and has pleasant notice.

As Michigan has already had more than its share of space, we must quit.

Sir Charles H. Pomeroy, is Grand Commander : Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MINNESOTA—1894.

Twenty-ninth Annual at St. Paul, June 25th ; Sir J. W. Nach, R. E. :

Commander: Sir Thos. Montgomery. Grand Recorder: 22 Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is a good one. His "Opening Chorus" is couched in the following language:

The Twenty-ninth Annual Conclave of our Grand Commandery is in session. We have assembled for the purpose of exchanging fraternal greetings, to deliberate upon the official action of your Grand Commander, and to discuss the condition of the Order throughout this jurisdiction.

Eminent Sir Knights, it is with pleasure and knightly courtesy that I greet you, and feel satisfied that your deliberations upon this occasion will be characterized by wisdom and prudence, and that your sole object will be the advancement of Templar Masonry. It is a matter of great satisfaction to me, that I am able to report to you that no dissensions of any character has arisen during the past year, but on the contrary, the very best of knightly feeling exists throughout our entire State. But little has been brought to my attention except the regular routine. As a result of this happy condition, your Grand Commander has experienced less difficulty in the administration of affairs than has many of his predecessors.

Under the head of "Dispensations," we find the following singular deliverance:

On February 17, 1894, I received a communication from the Recorder of "B" Commandery, stating that said Commandery had received a petition of a certain Companion, January 12, 1894; that on January 26th they had received the report of the committee to whom said petition had been referred, and then and there caused the ballot to be spread and elected said Companion; and on February 9th had conferred the order of the Red Cross upon said Companion. Discovering their error, they requested me to grant a dispensation to cover the point in question. This I refused to do, and held: That the Companion never having been regularly elected, said Commandery should again act upon his petition in the regular and prescribed manner, conforming to the rules and regulations of the Grand Commandery, and after he was duly elected, proceed to confer the order upon him without regard to any action previously taken.

It occurs to us that a dispensation healing the breach, as it was evidently an unintentional one, would have been better than all this fuss and splutter about a matter that belongs entirely, or should, with the Subordinate Commandery.

His decisions were sound. His visitations were quite general. The Denver Ritual is on deck in that State.

Report of visitations by the Staff are also quite full, and the Order seems to be in a healthy state.

The Treasurer's report shows a balance in hand of over \$2000, all of which will doubtless, be thrown away at next "Triennial." Total Membership, 2280, a gain of 38.

Our good Bro. Montgomery, is again the architect of the Correspondence report, which he prefaces with a sort of sketch of the situation, as seen through his glasses, and which, as it is correct and well written, we will copy:

To the Grand Commandery of Minnesota:

Your committee on Correspondence have carefully inspected the pro-

ceedings of all the Grand Commanderies received at the Grand Reporter's office, and herewith submit a brief review thereof. No burning questions seem to agitate the Templar world at the present time. The addresses and reports of the past year were burdened with glowing accounts of the Silver Triennial at Denver, and of the generous hospitality and magnificent display of our Colorado fraters, and with rejoicing at the final settlement of the Ritual question. Great dissatisfaction was expressed, however, at the delay in its distribution, and there are again widespread complaints because so few copies can be had. This will doubtless be remedied at Boston. Already preparations are being made for the Boston Triennial, and expectation runs high. Undoubtedly it will attract an immense concourse of Templar Knights and their friends from all parts of our country. One eminent Sir Knight gave it out that a revised Knight of Malta Ritual would be submitted at Boston, but as he has passed from the scenes of human action, the matter may not be considered. Much has also been written about the observance of one or more days as distinctive Templar days for Christian worship. Some favor Easter Sunday, others Ascension Day, while still others incline towards Good Friday and Christmas. It seems to be the settled policy, that at least one such service a year should be observed by Commanderies as such, and Easter seems to be the favorite day. The Christmas toast to the Grand Master, inaugurated in Maine and approved by the Grand Encampment, has come to stay. It has been referred to nearly all Grand Commanders with approval, and was generally observed last Christmas Day. Scarcely a word has been mentioned about either the Mystic Shrine or Easter Star, neither being regarded as Masonic, and yet both are countenanced and permitted to meet in Masonic Halls, with rare exceptions. Cerneauism seems to have spent its force, as the various Grand Bodies are little troubled with it now. The propriety of parading as Commanderies on other than strictly Masonic or Templar occasions is generally questioned. In some Eastern jurisdictions they still insist on the right to do escort duty on Memorial Day.

We have omitted from the body of our report, any allusion to attendance at the Grand Conclaves, membership or finances, as all this, and much more of permanent interest, will appear in our table of statistics at the close of this report, where will also be found an alphabetical index of the various proceedings reviewed. We are more than grateful to our brother correspondents for the many kind words written concerning our past four reports, imperfect though they were, and with such encouragement and the approbation of our beloved fraters of Minnesota, will endeavor to give hereafter as heretofore, our best efforts to promote the success and development of Christian Knighthood, and to maintain unsullied, the high standard Minnesota has already attained in the Templar world.

A feature of nearly all the proceedings, is the space given to obituary notices and orders promulgating the same. These are often, improperly, as we think, incorporated into the addresses of Grand Commanders, and are sometimes duplicated in the reports of committees on Necrology. A worthy plan, observed in some jurisdictions, is that of having a standing committee on obituary, to whom is reported all the facts attainable, concerning deceased fraters who are present or Past Grand Officers, and a well prepared and brief report is thus presented during the session, the Grand Commander merely mentioning the name.

We are pleased to observe that the death of our late Grand Prelate Sir P. P. Hubbell, was mentioned quite generally, and in many proceedings a memorial page was devoted to his memory. Minnesota appreciates such Knightly consideration in this case, and our late frater was worthy of it.

Under Canada and replying to Bro. Robertson's question of "Where is

Duluth anyway?" After some historical and pertinent remarks on the geographical ignorance of Bro. R., he proceeds to knock that gentleman silly with the following poetical gem "of purest ray serene:"

To R.: E.: Sir Knight Hy. Robertson, P.: G.: M.:. K.: T.: Canada:

#### WHERE'S DULUTH?

Lives there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said?  
There the city! There Duluth!  
Its glories known to age, to youth.  
In poet's verse, in history's tome,  
In burning words, abroad at home.

Yes, there is a man forsooth  
Who asks the question, "Where's Duluth?"  
Where's Minnesota's greatest pride?  
The spot most blest of all beside?  
Whose glories Paul and Minnie fair,  
The "Heavenly Twins" so oft declare?

Asks where the great banana belt?  
Where nought but balmy breeze is felt?  
Where flows the zemzem waters rare?  
Where nought but Houris, beauteous, fair?  
Where is Heaven on earth, in truth?  
He asks "Where is this great Duluth?"

On Nottawasaga's barren shore,  
Where demons wild in anguish tore  
The very rocks from where they stood,  
And built the site of Collingwood.  
There, when their fiendish work was done  
Fate exiled our Sir Robertson.

Dead to the world, its joys, its woes,  
Out of the world for all it knows,  
Of "Boulder Bottom," where dwells this Knight  
Who, long in darknes, seeking light,  
Should not be scoffed at if forsooth  
He asks the question, "Where's Duluth?"

As a poet Bro. M. is a success. As a reporter he is more than a success—he is a prodigy.

Mississippi for 1893 is most pleasantly and fraternally considered in this excellent paper. We would like to clip more from Bro. M.'s report, but Minnesota's space is full.

Sir W. H. S. Wright is R.: E.: Grand Commanner; P. G. C. Thos. Montgomery, Grand Recorder, Correspondent and Poet Laureate.

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#### MISSOURI—1894.

Thirty-third annual at Kansas City, April 14th. R.: E.: Chas. S. Glappell, Grand Commander, presiding.

The proceedings opened with a welcome address by a local orator, which was responded to by the Grand Commander in appropriate terms. The address covers twenty pages and is a sensible paper. His opening is in something of the nature of an exhortation, in which some solemn thoughts are expressed and some wise suggestions, looking to an improvement in the moral and religious lives of the brethren were made.

The magnanimous dead receive appropriate consideration. May they rest in peace.

He made several decisions, the report of which he prefaced with the remark that if the questioners had attended to their legitimate business, they would have known without asking. Among others, he decided that a citizen of another State, but a member of a Commandery in Missouri, could not dimitt from the Commandery to which he then belonged, and join another Masonic Commandery. That may be good law but we were under the impression that we could join any Commandery we wanted to, provided its members voted white balls. We are perfectly sure that the Grand Encampment has nothing to do with the matter. His second decision is also a little "off color," for the reason that he says an objection to a petition for affiliation is not valid. Had he added—"Except at the meeting at which they are made," it would have been all right. It is a recognized right of a non-affiliate to petition at each regular Conclave until elected or the boiler bursts, and no member has a right to abridge the privilege. He remarks, and very justly, that if the petitioner is unworthy to become a member of the Commandery, it is the duty of the objector to prefer charges.

He also decided that a member who had dimitted from the Blue Lodge and remained a non-affiliate for over twelve months, of his own accord, should be stricken from the rolls, as he has lost his standing in the Lodge and Chapter. In support of this decision he quotes sundry and divers authorities, and, as the law seems to be, is correct, but we don't like it. The Law Committee and the Grand Body approved his findings in every case.

He has this to say anent the "Home":

The Masonic Home established by the Masons of Missouri will stand as a proud monument to their memory through all time. To succor the needy and protect the helpless, is indeed a noble calling. Is there a higher or nobler honor than to be engaged in this work? The Knights Templars of this Grand Jurisdiction have ever been most active, zealous and earnest workers in this laudable enterprise. They have always been ready with their counsel and purse to advance its interests.

When Right Eminent Sir Noah M. Givan offered the resolution that this Grand Commandery build a Masonic Hospital and Sanitarium for the Home, it was received with a song of gladness. Tears of pleasure wet the cheeks of earnest and valiant fraters, joy filled every heart. There are now, in actual numbers sheltered within the walls of the Home, fifty-eight orphan children, who, had not the mantle of Masonic charity been thrown around them, would to-day be wanderers, subject to the trials and temptations of a cold, selfish and wicked world, with no one to cheer or guide their footsteps while passing to manhood and womanhood. There are also fifteen widows, who, through the mysterious dispensation of Him who "doeth all things well," have been deprived of the support and pro-

tection of their husbands. Six indigent Masons, who through the misfortunes of life are now helpless. Fathers and mothers in Israel, whose race in life is near its end, who, when as you now are, were blessed with health, and the luxuries of life, were ever ready to aid the unfortunate, are now by the aid of their Masonic brethren sheltered and cheered, while passing through the remnant of their days, with the necessities of life.

Go with me to the Home. Songs of gladness from the little ones; the hearty handshake, accompanied with words of cheer, will greet you from the aged and infirm. Your hearts will swell with joy, your eyes fill with tears of pleasure, at the good work you have done.

We still have a great work to do. Our Home is full, and must be enlarged. A hospital and sanitarium has become a necessity. Your committee appointed one year ago, has accomplished a noble work. The most pleasant task I have had during my administration was to aid them in this laudable enterprise.

We copy the above because it reflects credit upon our Missouri brethren and to encourage our good Bro. Barkley in his heroic efforts along the same line in this State. The address, as a whole, is an excellent paper. A portrait of its author adorns the title page of the Missouri pamphlet. Looking at it we are not surprised that the original talks sense and made his administration creditable.

The minutes contain reports from the staff, as inspecting officers, which show the Order to be in good shape. They are struggling to learn the new ritual and will, doubtless, succeed.

A picture of the "Home" is also a feature of the minutes. It looks cosy, nice and comfortable. Charters granted to two new Commanderies. Total membership in the State, over 4000! A trifle ahead of us.

Our good Bro. Mayo presents another good Correspondence report, in which he digests the transactions of most of the Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1893, among the rest. He does not agree with your committee on the subject of devotional offices, in uniform, but his dissent is couched in the language of a cultured, Christian gentlemen. As we have concluded to let Ephriam alone, a further discussion of the merits of the question is not in order. He says the "Home" itself is not taxed, but that Masonic property adjoining is. This is wrong. It ought all to be exempt.

R. E. T. R. Morrow, is Grand Commander; Sir W. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### NEW YORK—1894.

Eighty-first Annual at Saratoga, September 11th. Sir Jos. H. Bonnington, Grand Commander, presiding; Sir Robt. Macoy, Grand Recorder. Fifty-six Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

An eloquent address of welcome was delivered by P. C. Sturges, of the local Commandery, which was responded to by the Grand Commander. In the course of the Grand Commander's remarks we find the following, which indicates his belief in the efficacy of prayer, as well as his conviction that it is right and proper to ask the Father of Mercies for such



temporal blessings as will redound to our comfort and happiness. All of which is, to us, peculiarly pleasant. 'Had we issued the request we should not have confined it to the "clergy," as there are, doubtless, thousands among the laity who are not strangers at the Throne of Divine Love. This writer has known some who wore the "cloth" whose petitions, general or specific, would not raise a zephyr or disperse a "scud." But here is the excerpt:

Some time ago I issued an informal request to every Commandery throughout the State to implore from the clergy prayers that rain should not interfere with the programme of the Annual Conclave at Saratoga in 1894, and from evidences it looks as though they have been answered.

Several distinguished visitors, among them Bro. Hall, of Georgia, were accorded special reception.

The address is an elegant resume of his administration. Much space is devoted to the memory of the distinguished dead, among them P. G. C.'s Babcock and Gaul, the latter having been Grand Commander last year. Peace to their ashes.

His dispensations were numerous, but for legitimate purposes.

He decided that a candidate rejected in a Commandery which had no legal right to entertain his petition, need not wait the usual six months before petitioning the proper Commandery. The action of the first, for lack of jurisdiction, being nil.

He issued two dispensations for new Commanderies. His visitations were quite extensive.

We copy as follows from the report of the Committee on Grand Commander's address, of which our good Brother Anthony is chairman, as being good sound sense, and we sincerely hope that at the next Triennial this matter may receive the attention it deserves.

Upon the principle that constant dropping will wear away the stone, we second the recommendation of the Grand Commander that a strenuous effort be made at the forthcoming triennial conclave of the Grand Encampment to have the Statutes amended whereby the time required before a ballot can be had upon petitions for the Orders shall be made two instead of four weeks.

If there was any valid reason for such enactment, it should be made arbitrary, and not qualified by the permission to allow a ballot in less time by virtue of a dispensation.

In this connection we also desire to go on record as holding the opinion that this is a matter which should properly be left to each and every Grand Commandery to decide for itself.

The Grand Encampment may with propriety enact minute regulations for the government of the Subordinate Commanderies under its immediate jurisdiction, but the internal management of each Grand Commandery should be subject to its own control.

The following amendment to the regulations, which is in accord with the Grand Encampment law on the subject, which law Mississippi so heavily sat down on last year, not receiving the necessary two-thirds vote was declared lost, the section remaining a part of the regulations:"

No. 2. That section 87 of the regulations, which reads, "unaffiliation or suspension for non-payment of dues by Lodge or Chapter, shall deprive a Knight of membership in the Commandery until such unaffiliation or suspension shall cease, or his dues be paid," be stricken out.

The Order is in excellent shape in the Empire State, the membership exceeding ten thousand swords, the largest in the world.

The correspondence covers 103 pages and reviews the minutes of forty Templar Bodies, and is the handiwork of Sir Jesse B. Anthony, in his usual courteous and pleasant manner. He devotes five pages of his excellent report to our pamphlet, quoting the law report in full, prefacing the same with the following remarks:

The following report by R. E. Frederic Speed, Chairman of the Committee on Templar Law, is of so much importance that we deem it essential to present its full text.

All arguments upon this question heretofore have been in one direction, an attempt to reconcile the difference between the laws of several Grand Lodges and that embraced in the code of the Grand Encampment. The provisions of the organic law of the Grand Encampment and the repeated constructions placed thereon, have rendered this a difficult task.

There is a principle embraced in this question which must ultimately be squarely met and settled by the Grand Encampment. Under the enactments of several Grand Lodges, it must be conceded that the standing of a Templar is affected.

We believe that there should be complete harmony between the various Grand Bodies in Masonry, and recognizing the Ancient Craft—embodied in the Grand Lodge—as the foundation, we think it must be held and ultimately decided that the laws of the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment must be on the same line and embrace the same principles. The Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment cannot work independently. The question of rights and privileges of membership and consequent Masonic standing should be defined by the Grand Lodge, and the other Masonic Grand Bodies should conform in principle thereto.

This is a subject of grave importance, and demands the exercise of the wisest judgment on the part of the Grand Encampment.

While we recognize the right of a Grand Lodge to enact that “a non-contributing affiliate” occupies the same position as an “expelled Mason,” yet we do not consider it in any sense a just enactment. It is liable to the criticism of being un-Masonic. It is certainly most unjust. To punish a Mason for the non-payment of dues by visiting upon him the highest punishment recognized in Masonry for the commission of the gravest crime is an outrageous law, and upon this point we believe the consensus of opinion is adverse thereto.

We think it must be admitted that the law of the Grand Encampment—while intending to recognize the action of a Grand Lodge—contemplates that the severance of Masonic ties and obligations should be the result of due action by trial for violation of Masonic duty or the commission of a Masonic offense, and in that event it would affect a Templar's standing in his Commandery. Such we esteem the correct basis to be established. A Templar has rights which should be recognized equally with those of a Master Mason.

While we do not concur in all our brother has said, yet there is much logic and good sense in his ideas, particularly as to the right of Grand Lodges to enforce the capital penalty for non-affiliation coupled with non-contributing. So long, however, as it is the law of the Grand Lodge it should be observed and respected by all, including, of course, the so-called higher bodies.

He honors your Committee on Correspondence with pleasant notice. We appropriate for your information some of his statistical tables:

## STATISTICAL COMPARISON.

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Grand Encampment.....	1	1	1	1
Grand Commanderies.....	38	38	38	39
Number of Subordinates.....	869	902	930	954
Knighted.....	5,513	7,574	8,226	6,915
Affiliated.....	890	1,201	1,377	1,029
Reinstated.....	223	308	282	278
Died.....	1,084	1,148	1,265	1,368
Dimitted.....	1,410	1,869	2,024	1,915
Dropped for non-payment of dues.....	991	1,204	1,310	1,214
Expelled.....	41	95	47	57
Membership.....	86,898	92,631	97,765	101,675

Based upon the tables we deduce the following points of interest.

In numerical standing the Grand Commanderies take rank in the following order:

New York.....	10,018
Massachusetts and Rhode Island.....	9,911
Pennsylvania.....	9,626
Illinois.....	8,891
Ohio.....	7,376
Michigan.....	5,098
Iowa.....	4,202
Missouri.....	4,033
Indiana.....	3,309

Grand Commanderies which have Commanderies of the largest membership:

Illinois—St Bernard, No. 35, Chicago.....	750
Massachusetts and Rhode Island—Boston, No. 2, Boston.....	729
Pennsylvania—St. John's, No. 4, Philadelphia.....	589
New York—Monroe, No. 12, Rochester.....	485
Colorado—Colorado, No. 1, Denver.....	452
Connecticut—Washington, No. 1, Hartford.....	450
Ohio—Oriental, No. 12, Cleveland.....	425
Maine—Portland, No. 2, Portland.....	351
Minnesota—Zion, No. 2, Minneapolis.....	331
Kentucky—De Molay, No. 12, Louisville.....	316

The average of membership to each Commandery is graded as follows:

Massachusetts and Rhode Island.....	225
Connecticut.....	191
New Hampshire.....	182
New York.....	176
Maine.....	146
Illinois.....	143
Ohio.....	141
Pennsylvania.....	135
Vermont.....	132

The total membership shows an increase the past year of 3,812, equal to 3.89 per cent.

The additions from new work show a gain of 7.07 per cent.

The losses by dimission and for non-payment of dues aggregate 3.20 per cent., against 3.60 per cent. last year.

The proportion of Knights Templar to Master Masons in the United States is in the ratio of 101,675 to 713,828: equal to 1 to 7.02.

The proportion of Knights Templar to Royal Arch Masons in the United States is in the ratio of 101,675 to 187,311: equal to 1 to 1.84.

With fraternal regards.

Sir Jas. W. Bowden is R. E. Grand Commander: Sir Robt. Macoy, Grand Recorder: Sir Jesse B. Anthony, Correspondent.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE—1893.

Thirty-fourth Annual at Concord, September 26th. Sir Thaddeus E. Sanger, Grand Commander; Sir Geo. P. Cleaves, Grand Recorder. Nine Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is short and confined to local matters, mostly. It opens as follows:

I am not unmindful that by your choice I occupy the high and honorable position of Commander of this Grand Commandery.

When I consider the greatness of the honor, and with what worthy names my own becomes associated in this connection, I cannot and would not suppress thoughts of deepest gratitude, not only for the conferred distinction, but also for the earnest assistance rendered me in endeavoring to promote the welfare and good reputation of our fraternity during the past twelve months.

His decisions were unimportant because the questions were so.

Among his dispensations we find several granting permission to Commanderies of adjacent States to enter his jurisdiction, in full uniform on "pilgrimages." Also one of his own to pilgrimage into Massachusetts. Now where did this pilgrimage; nonsense and child's play come from anyway? Why not be sensible and call these things Templar Excursions? That is what they are. They are not pilgrimages, as there is no element of devotion about them, nor are they made for the purpose of visiting places or things made sacred by some prior circumstance or remarkable happening, real or alleged. Such things make us tired in this extremely practical age and we wish our Eastern brethren would stop such foolishness. It is unworthy of, and unbecoming to their well-known high grade of learning and good common sense. If New Hampshire wishes to visit Massachusetts, let her put on her Sunday clothes, a "biled" shirt, a standing collar, her "trusty claymore" and cocked hat, board the first train that comes along and go ahead! If Massachusetts objects, draw your swords, Charge Chester! Charge!! Let out a little gore and in a little horse sense and the war will be over! The same prescription will do for Massachusetts and all the balance of the "Permission to Invade" people. Bro. Sanger's phiz adorns the title page of the pamphlet and he is too sensible looking, as well as handsome, to lend himself to such things.

An extended and eloquent memorial of P. G. C. Jno. J. Bell, by P. G. C. Fellows, is a part of the record, also Bro. Bell's portrait.

The report on Correspondence is the finished work of Bro. A. S. Wait.

and is among the best that comes to this committee. We like our brother's style. He has something to say about everything worth talking about, and what he says has the merit of sense and lucidity. He digests most of the Templar minutes, ours for '93 receiving fraternal and pleasant notice of three pages.

As we shall probably receive the New Hampshire pamphlet for the current year in time for this report, we will devote no more space to her now, only to assure our good Brother Wait that we will never, intentionally, omit his pamphlet from our report. As we write this after the Annual for the current year we omit names of Grand Commander, etc.

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#### NEW HAMPSHIRE—1894.

Thirty-fifth Annual at Concord, September 25th. R. E. Sir Chas. C. Hayes, Grand Commander; Sir Geo. P. Cleaves, Grand Recorder. Nine Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The Grand Commander's address is a short resume of his official acts. It contains some eloquent passages, good counsel and timely suggestions. He visited every Commandery, officially during the year, and reports the Order and his entire command in excellent shape in all respects. The new ritual is used throughout the State and, we believe, gives general satisfaction.

His dispensations were all sensible except those permitting sundry Commanderies of neighboring jurisdictions "to enter this jurisdiction in full uniform, and with music and banners." He also allowed some others "to pass through to Maine!" Now there may be an element of propriety in all this, but we can't detect it. Will some apostle of the "fad" come to the front with an explanation? He made no decisions.

He recommended an additional appropriation of \$1,000 to meet head-quarter's expenses at Boston next year, making \$1,500 in all.

We should like to see an itemized account of disbursements of this fund. He closes with the following unique specimen of Machine Poetry:

"So let my past life stand just as it stands,  
And let me now as I may grow old,  
I am what I am, and my life for me  
Is the best, or it had not been, I hold."

We are glad that Bro. Hayes is not the author of this verse. Probably its original architect went into a decline after producing it. The practice of writing such verses as these should be discouraged. It is too wearing on the writer and too straining on the reader! The Theology is rather shaky and the jingle quite harsh.

The proceedings contain noting of general interest.

The proceedings of thirty-eight Templar Grand Bodies are ably digested by Bro. A. S. Wait, in a report covering 92 pages—Mississippi for 1894 getting a couple of them.

Touching the matter of Law report at last session, he says:

The chief interest of the Conclave, we judge, was that attending

a report of the same Committee upon a question which has also elicited discussion elsewhere. The Law of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi denies Masonic rights to non-affiliates who do not contribute to the funds of the Lodge of their residence; and the question was, whether such a Sir Knight could be allowed to sit in a Commandery. The Committee submit an extended and vigorous report, in which, admitting that the law of the Grand Encampment clearly allows the rights of the Commandery to such persons, holds nevertheless the law of the Grand Lodge to be paramount, and to which the law of the Grand Encampment must give way. We have, under California, and also under Missouri, expressed views in opposition to those held by this Committee. We are not convinced by the reasoning of their report, but have nothing to add to what we have already said, except that, as the question appears to us the most important before the Templar Order, we think it ought to undergo full discussion, and if possible be definitely settled at the next Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment.

We can't help your opposition, Bro. W. We are perfectly sure we are right, and that those of contrary views are wrong.

His attention to our report is fraternal and pleasant. We never leave out New Hampshire if it can be helped.

We clip the following from his doxology :

Proceedings in a few Grand Jurisdictions have developed questions of Templar Law which appear to us of considerable moment, and which we have already taken occasion to say we think ought speedily to be brought to the final decision of the tribunal of last Templar resort. They are, (1) The effect of non-affiliation in the Lodge upon membership in the Commandery, where the law of the Grand Lodge makes membership essential to Masonic rights, and (2) the right of a Knight Templar, unaffiliated, to seek membership in a Commandery not of the jurisdiction of his residence. The first of these questions has been supposed to be settled by a direct decision of the Grand Encampment, but there seems to be a disposition in some quarters—not very extensive as appears to us—to question the power of that body in the premises. Whether there have been proceedings looking to the submission of the question to the further consideration of the Grand Encampment we are not aware, but should think it nearly inevitable that it must be again brought to the attention of that body at no distant day. The question seems to turn upon the other question, whether a Grand Lodge has power, without conviction and definitive sentence thereupon, by a general law to deny Masonic privileges to a member of the fraternity, and to bind other Masonic bodies to such a rule. The other question is like the former, of quite modern origin, it having until recently been generally assumed that a non-affiliated Mason had a right to seek membership in any Grand Jurisdiction, irrespective of his residence. This right is now denied by a few Grand Lodges (we think at present not over three) and their rule is followed by the Grand Commanderies of the same jurisdictions.

Both these doctrines seem to us fraught with confusion among the several Grand Jurisdictions, and the question of their correctness ought not to remain for any long time in suspense. We do not doubt that, as in all former disagreements, the final decision will be such as to preserve the harmony as well as the consistent character and philanthropic usefulness of our beloved Order.

Rev. Daniel C. Roberts is Grand Commander : Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

## NEW JERSEY—1894.

Thirty-sixth Annual at Trenton, May 8th. Sir Warren Dobbs, R.: E.: Grand Commander; Sir Chas. Bechtel, Grand Recorder. Fifteen Commanderies were represented.

The address is a good one, opening as follows :

Sir Knights—I welcome you to this, our Thirty-sixth Annual Conclave, and congratulate you upon the continuance of the well-being of our Order, and that uninterrupted concord and harmony prevail. Another year is numbered with the past, and its records, whatever they may have been, are now matters of history. Let us improve these years that are rapidly flitting by, in pleasant intercourse, and leave some impress for good on the fraternity we all love. We own but one brief moment of the present: the past can never be recalled. We have not the omniscience of the Infinite to pierce the future or solve its mysteries. But we do know that our Redeemer liveth, and that He has led us beside still waters and through green pastures, and that His rod and His staff will comfort us all the days of our life." It is meet, therefore, that as humble creatures, we should bring our heartfelt thanksgiving to the one ever-living God, while the opportunity is ours: for it is through His goodness that we are permitted to gather together again in Annual Conclave. May each of us feel the inspiration and voice the anthem of praise to the "Great I Am" for His mercies which endure forever.

His dispensations were sensible. The Denver Ritual is in force in New Jersey.

The proceedings are of local interest. Total membership, 1655, a gain of 29.

Grand Recorder Chas. Bechtel is again the author of the Correspondence report, in which he digests the minutes of thirty-nine Templar jurisdictions, in his usual courteous and fraternal style: Mississippi for 1893 included.

We copy his conclusion as showing his status on the ritual matter :

In the foregoing pages we have endeavored to present the most interesting portions of the proceedings examined.

We are gratified at the almost unanimous acceptance of the Denver Ritual. We trust that those who now take exceptions to portions of it, will in the near future fall into line and keep up with the procession, and then will we be spared the knowledge that different jurisdictions use different Rituals.

We, of course, admit the right to criticism on the part of some of the acknowledged Ritualists, (it is impossible for any Committee on Ritual to please everybody), but in these criticisms it does not appear to be necessary to question the good intentions of those who were instrumental in producing the present Ritual.

We also find a marked improvement in the writings of some Correspondents, who heretofore have thought it necessary to call each other bad men because they differed with them. Keep up the good work.

Sir Jas. McCain is R.: E.: Grand Commander; Sir Chas. Bechtel Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

## NORTH DAKOTA—1894.

Fifth Annual at Valley City, June 15th. Sir Roswell W. Knowlton, Grand Commander; Sir Frank J. Thompson, Grand Recorder. Seven

Subordinate Commanderies were represented. Here is something new :

RECEPTION OF MRS. LORAINNE S. PITKIN.

Sir Knight Samuel A. Fisher (5) moved : That inasmuch as Mrs. Lorainne J. Pitkin, the Past Grand Matron and present Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, was present in the city, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star for the State, and had been honored at the hands of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of North Dakota, that she be invited to be received by this Commandery, and that this Grand Commandery be adjourned for that purpose. Carried.

The Grand Commander then appointed Sir Knights John D. Black and Samuel E. Fisher, of St Elmo Commandery, to escort the lady to the Grand Asylum.

The Grand Commander then declared the Grand Commandery adjourned for the purposes named in the motion.

The eminent lady was escorted to the Asylum by Sir Knights of the Committee, and introduced by Sir Knight Fisher. R. E. Grand Commander Knowlton welcomed her with appropriate and well timed remarks, to which Mrs. Pitkin replied with sentiments expressing her gratitude at the knightly courtesy thus extended to her and her sisters in the work. The ladies retiring, the Grand Commandery was called to order.

The address is a short resume of his administration, and opens as follows :

Another year has passed with its joys and sorrows, and we are again permitted to assemble in our Fifth Annual Conclave, in the beautiful little city in the valley of the Sheyenne, surrounded on every side with the magnanimous hospitality extended to us by the Sir Knights of St. Elmo Commandery and brother Masons of Valley City.

It is under these pleasant circumstances that I make a report to you of my official acts as your Grand Commander for the past year. It is with great pleasure I can announce the continued prosperity and growth of our Order in this State.

My term of office has not been marked with any extraordinary circumstances, but has passed evenly along, with pleasure to myself and apparently to the Sir Knights in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Sir Knights, we should, so far as it lies in our power, formulate laws for the future development and grandeur of our Order, in our deliberations at this conclave, and all others hereafter, that the Supreme Grand Commander in his wisdom permits us to attend, put forth every effort at our commend to perpetuate and elevate the standing of our noble and honorable Order.

We find nothing further of general interest in the address or in the proceedings. Total membership, 365. No Correspondence report and no committee raised for that work. If our Dakota brethren would spend the money for Correspondence report that goes for pictures in their pamphlet, it would be an improvement. Not that Grand Commander Knowlton is not good looking, and all that, but you can't disseminate Templar law in this way to any great extent.

Sir Joseph Hare is R. E. Grand Commander : Sir Frank J. Thompson, Grand Recorder.

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NORTH CAROLINA—1894.

Fourteenth Annual at Charlotte, May 8 and 9: Sir Francis M. Moye,



Grand Commander : Sir Horace Munson, Grand Recorder. Eleven Commanderies were represented.

The address opens in the following beautiful strain :

We stand this evening, Sir Knights, as it were, amid the gathering shadows and gaze upon the setting sun of the closing Templar year, while we recount the duties performed and work accomplished in the interest of the Order during the short period of its history.

For a moment we halt on life's journey to exchange greetings and congratulations ere we resume our pilgrimage to that heavenly Asylum where all true and faithful Knights hope at last to arrive.

Gleaming with purest light will soon appear high up in the Masonic firmament the beautiful morning star of hope and good cheer for the future of our noble Order.

Soon the bright rising sun of our new Templar year will beam upon us, his brilliant rays shedding, we trust, increased luster on our banner and lighting our pathway as onward we press in our contest with the vanities and deceits of the world to nobler deeds and grander achievements in the cause of Christian Knighthood.

He reports the Order, so far as his knowledge extends, in a satisfactory condition. Appropriate mention is made of the dead of his own and sister jurisdictions. He makes the usual remarks anent dispensations to ballot, all of which is unnecessary. Just turn such matters over to the Subordinates, where they belong, and the vexed question will be settled.

He issued quite a batch of Special Dispensations, but all for legitimate purposes. He promulgated the Denver Ritual. Made but one decision, which was correct. He closes with some words of wisdom and exhortation.

Proceedings are local. Total membership 339—a gain of 53.

Bro. John C. Chase is the author of an excellent report on Foreign Affairs, covering sixty-one pages and digesting the doings of most of the Templar governing bodies in a courteous, chatty and genial manner. Mississippi for 1893 getting two pages of pleasant notice.

We clip his "conclusion," at the same time assuring him of our joy that, through God's infinite goodness he was spared so great a sorrow.

#### CONCLUSION.

We have reached the end of our task, and lay aside the pen with a feeling of relief, which is tempered with sadness at the thought of parting company with our brother correspondents, the perusal of whose work has been most heartily enjoyed, cheering and enlivening many a weary hour in the past few months. Much of our work has been done with the shadow of the grim destroyer hanging over our household, for the partner of our joys and sorrows for nearly a quarter of a century, appeared for several weeks, in spite of our efforts, to be drifting out into the great beyond, but, thanks to the blessed Immanuel, as we write these lines, the skies are bright with the radiance of hope, and a complete recovery seems to be assured.

We have endeavored to fill the somewhat limited space at our disposal in such a way as would give our "homefolks" an idea of what was being done in the Templar world, as outlined in the various proceedings. We have been somewhat sparing in comment, realizing fully our inexperience, and preferring to leave a margin for improvement on that line if it should again be our lot to serve on the corps of reviewers. We are fully aware

of the imperfections of our work, but, such as it is, we send it forth, trusting that it will prove instructive and edifying to those for whom it was written, and meet with charitable consideration at the hands of our brothers of the quill.

And now we can only say :

"May God be with you till we meet again."

whether it be in the flesh, as we sincerely hope it may come to pass, or in the Proceedings of another year, or in that last great Asylum towards which our steps are rapidly hastening.

Sir A. H. Cobb is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### NEBRASKA—1894.

Twenty-second Annual at Norfolk. April 3d. Sir Wm. R. Bowen, R. : E. : Grand Commander, presiding. Eighteen Subordinate Commanderies represented. The usual address of welcome and response marked the opening scene. We excerpt the following from the Grand Master's address:

*Ser Knights of Nebraska:*—I congratulate you Freemasons that you, being sincere and earnest Masonic Knights Templar, are abreast with the foremost standard of these last days of the nineteenth century. In the Lodge we were taught belief in God, a personal God, in the power of prayer and in the resurrection to a life hereafter. In the Chapter we learned of the worship of our creator and of his names and attributes. In our order of the Red Cross the power of truth was impressed upon us. And in our asylum we have heard the story of self-sacrifice—the most elevated idea that humanity is capable of comprehending. Freemasonry is of the earth, earthy; an organization devised by men for the benefit of men; it was never intended to take the place of the church or of the state; requiring belief in God and in our order, faith in Christ, it is thus far a religion; but it is no respect or degree a church, nor meant to take its place.

I congratulate you Masonic Knights Templar that you have, by your profession of faith in Christ our Redeemer solved those problems that do, and ever must, cause of one who is both a Christian and a Freemason, (but not a Knight Templar) to ponder on the seeming antagonisms that confront the thinker: whether it is right to have an altar in our Lodge; whether a Christian can hope for response to any prayer not made in the name of Christ; and other problems that set one thinking as he passes from the Apprentice degree to the august Royal Arch.

And I congratulate you, Knights Templar, that by your adherence to the principles of our order, by your continued membership, by your frequent participation in our ceremonies, you have thus renewed your vows with knowledge of their scope and import. This full knowledge may not have impressed you when first you entered our asylum, and had you found our teaching unacceptable or our practice uncongenial, your abandonment of our order might be deplored, but your sincerity would have been appreciated. But having adhered to your professions it only remains for us to remain steadfast to the end, with faith in God, hope for immortality and charity for our fellows.

No believer in the "Trinity" is troubled with the "antagonisms" referred to. To him they are only apparent, not real. He issued fifteen dispensations, some of them for "escort duty." Wonder what they escorted? Probably some G. A. R. Post! He had the following "memo-

rial" before the body, which was referred to the Law Committee, which reported it back without recommendation:

I recommend consideration of the following memorial. The remedy may be secured by general action of our order throughout our country, or may be reached by national copyright, or by state law, similar to the Nebraska law regarding badges of the Grand Army and the Loyal Legion. Had the Masonic members of our legislature been alert when the bill protecting the Grand Army was passed, the emblems (badges) of Freemasonry might readily have been included:

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, MARCH 8, 1894.

SIR WILLIAM R. BOWEN, *Grand Commander*:

RIGHT EMINENT AND DEAR SIR KNIGHT:—The symbols and insignia of the Orders of Christian Knighthood, which have enlightened and gladdened the hearts of Sir Knights of the Order through many centuries, inspiring them with the noblest impulse of their being, the hope of a glorious immortality hereafter, are enshrined in their affections as significant of things sacred.

The fact that these emblems have been copied or closely imitated and are ostentatiously worn by many different societies of recent origin, without special connection with their tenets, has become a source of chagrin and annoyance to Knights Templar, so much so that at the last meeting of the Mount Moriah Commandery No. 4, it was brought to the attention of the Commandery by an observing and worthy Knight. After being discussed a committee was appointed and instructed to bring the matter to the attention of the Grand Commander. If a circular letter from him to the chairman of the committee of correspondence of each Grand Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, directing their attention to the matter, and they bringing it to the attention of their Grand Commandery, out of their combined wisdom perhaps something might be devised to abate the nuisance.

Courteously,

J. K. MARLAY,  
JOHN H. MCCLAY,  
M. H. GARTEN,  
Committee.

Proceeding local. Order in shape. Total membership 1656.

No report on Correspondence and no committee, although they have one on "Triennial."

R. E. Sir Jas. A. Tulley is Grand Commander; R. E. Wm. R. Bowen, is again Grand Recorder.

OHIO—1893.

This pamphlet failed to reach us in time for our last report, and as the proceedings for the current year will be likely to come to hand in time for this one, our review of the one before us will be somewhat curtailed.

The pamphlet opens with what the Grand Recorder styles "Preludium," and is an account of the events of the 50th anniversary of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, and the 75th of the establishment of the "Mother Commandery" of the West—Mount Vernon, No. 1, at Columbus. The program was elaborate and the occasion a most happy one.

Sir Knight Geo. J. Karb, mayor of the city, made the welcoming address, which was a good one, and from which we excerpt the "opening chorus:"

As I stand here looking this magnificent, beautiful and intelligent assemblage in the face, I am reminded of a remark made to me at a meeting of Columbus Lodge, No. 80, of which I am proud to be a member, a remark made to me by a Brother Johnson, when he said: "Why, Karb, I would rather be Master of a Lodge than to be Governor of the State of Ohio," but I feel that I can go him one better. I would to-day rather be a Knight Templar than be President of the United States.

While we have no doubt of the devotion of our brethren to Masonry, in all its branches, we should hesitate a long time, if we were Governor of Ohio or President of the United States, and wished to retain the place, before we would offer to trade with either of our enthusiastic brethren.

Grand Commander Houck responded in a few historical and appropriate remarks.

As a Semi Centennial Celebration it was a complete success.

Fifty-first Annual at Columbus, October 10. R.: E.: Sir M. J. Houck, Grand Commander: E.: Sir John N. Bell, Grand Recorder. Fifty-one Commanderies were represented—one for each year of the life of the Grand Body.

The address is an excellent one, but being venerable on account of age, we will touch it lightly. We copy his decisions in full, so you can see the legitimate fruits of Cerneauism and kindred tomfoolery.

#### DECISIONS.

I received, during the year, a number of communications requesting interpretations of Templar law. I respectfully submit the following, as the only ones deemed of sufficient importance to merit your attention.

An Eminent Commander asks the following questions, to which I append the answers:

"A number of expelled Sir Knights and dimitted members of \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery, who were connected with and sympathizers in the Cerneau movement in this State some years back, now seek admission to membership in the Commandery."

Decision No. 1:

Question—Will it be necessary for the Sir Knights to get certificates of good standing from both the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter?

Answer—Yes. See Code of Grand Encampment, K. T., U. S. A. page 45, title 26, sections 1 and 2, edition 1889.

Decision No. 2:

Question—Is it necessary for the Sir Knights to be members of the Lodge and Chapter before filing their petitions for membership in the Commandery.

Answer—No. See Code of Grand Encampment, page 62, title 48, sections 4 and 5, edition 1889.

Decision No. 3:

Question—Ought the Commandery to ask that an additional certificate of withdrawal from Cerneau bodies be furnished, or will the fact of their holding certificates of good standing from the Grand Lodge or Chapter, or both, be sufficient?

Answer—The rule prevails in this Grand Jurisdiction to require from

all applicants attainted with Cerneauism, certificates of withdrawal from illegal Masonic bodies or rites (so called) to accompany petitions.

Decision No. 4 :

Question—Could \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery reinstate the expelled Sir Knights without any action of the Grand Commandery ?

Answer—Yes, by conforming to all the requirements of the Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery.

A Companion applied for and was elected to receive the Orders. Owing to the visitation of a bodily affliction necessitating the use of money, he requested the return of his fees.

Decision No. 5 :

Ought the fees to be returned, and does the Commandery acquire jurisdiction ?

Answer—Yes, the fees ought to be returned at his request, by vote of the Commandery. The petitioner foregoes his desire for the Orders by yielding to a greater necessity superinduced by a bodily affliction.

By the presentation of his petition and the action taken, the Commandery acquired jurisdiction. See Code of Grand Encampment, page 51, title 34, sections 5 and 6, edition 1889. A future application would require a new petition.

He reports 464 Knighted during the year, which number exceeds our membership ! Total membership 7376, a gain of 242.

One hundred and sixty-seven pages of the pamphlet are taken up by Bro. Enoch's report on "Foreign Communications," which, like its predecessors, from the same ready pen and fertile brain, is all wool and a yard wide. We have always admired our brother's large intelligence as well as his perfect frankness. He says what he thinks, and in the purest as well as the plainest English.

His review of Mississippi for 1893 is full and fraternal. He has this to say in regard to Bro. Bodenhamer's suggestion to raise the fees for the Orders :

We have no doubt as to the Grand Commander's theory being entirely correct, but the advocates for cheap Masonry will roar like the bulls of Bashan. They believe in an obsolete old landmark—"without money and without price:" that no man is so poor that he should be debarred the privilege and luxury of Masonry and Templary. Bah, to such stuff, say we.

He acknowledges the receipt of Grand Commander Houck's circular of warning against a clandestine Knights Templars organization in Columbus, and prints the same in his address.

We are afraid Bro. Enoch is inclined to be autocratic. Referring to the programme of the Diamond Anniversary, he say : "This sounds like English-speaking Masonry. It has the right jingle to it."

He says the making of the address on that occasion could not have been entrusted to better hands than those of Frederic Speed ! Correct.

His notice of our report is very pleasant. We clip :

Bro. DeLap states a fact when he says that peace reigns between the houses of Carson and DeLap. The war of the roses is ended. So mote it be.

Bro. DeLap requested Bro. Speed to review our paper on the formation of the General Grand Encampment, which he did.

In our review the printer made us say that Bro. Speed was "sleep-walk-

ing." We wrote nothing of the kind. We wrote "sheep-walking," by which was meant that he was in the flock.

We shall pass Bro. Speed's paper for the present: we may take occasion to refer to it as we proceed.

Further along he quotes our remarks anent the Denver Ritual, and makes some of his own, but as one of the parties in interest has been called away by death, we refrain from copying.

We find an extended sketch of the National Ritual, from its birth to the present time, which, while no doubt true and able, is too long for us to copy it entire, and it can't be mutilated.

The same remarks apply, and with equal force, to a second paper on the history of the Grand Encampment of the United States, being a reply to an article written by Past Grand Master Hopkins, and published in The Freemason's Repository, January, 1893.

Of one thing we are sure, and that is that Bro. Enoch will hold up his end of the log in anything he undertakes. We don't know who is right in the controversy, and don't much care, but we feel sure that all the contestants are honest in the belief that they, and they alone, are right.

H. P. McIntosh is Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

#### OHIO—1894.

Fifty-Second Annual at Cleveland, October 3. Rt. E.: Sir Henry P. McIntosh, Grand Commander; Sir John N. Bell, Grand Recorder. A very large attendance and much rational enjoyment was a feature of the Conclave.

The address of the R.: E. is an admirable document, covering more than twenty pages, and containing a complete resume of his administration. He made quite a number of decisions, all of which are in perfect accord with reason and common sense. We copy the 7th as being exceptionally commendable.

#### INQUIRY NO. 7.

On June 28th last, I was asked the following: "May a dimit be issued to a member while he is engaged in the liquor saloon business?" Which, on the 30th of the same month, I answered as follows:

#### DECISION NO. 7.

I consider it the duty of the Eminent Commander to prefer charges against a member engaged in the nefarious business of keeping a saloon, which would operate as an estoppel to an application for a dimit. In the first place, such a person should not be allowed to join the Commandery; but should a Sir Knight embark in this business after he becomes a member, he is a fit subject for discipline under some of the numerous causes for this under Sec. 11, Item A. The Commandery must either discipline him or give him a certificate of good character, which a dimit practically is. If given a dimit he is placed in a position to receive the favorable consideration of sister Commanderies. I should therefore consider you derelict in your duty as a Knight Templar and an Eminent Commander,

should you allow such an offender to receive a dimit through failure to prefer charges. The Rocky Mountains are a great barrier between the Grand Jurisdiction of California and our beloved Grand Jurisdiction, but not great enough to prevent our joining hands on this question.

It is time that this Grand Commandery took a position on this question, which is shaking to the center one of the powerful religious denominations of the day, and that we should not be backward in taking the position it and a numerically large secret order have taken, viz: that no person engaged in the saloon business should be allowed to become a member.

Referring to the Orphans' Home and its support, he reiterates and endorses the suggestion of Grand Commander Perkins, recommending Triennial Sessions of the Grand Commandery, and that the money thus saved be appropriated to more excellent use. An excellent idea, but one that will find but little support among the members of the Grand Bodies. His dispensations were for proper purposes. His official expense account amounted to \$34.14. Down here we make our Grand Commander not only pay such things out of his own pocket, but pay his own expenses to Grand Conclave! He reports a net gain in membership of 190, notwithstanding the general depression in business.

The proceedings are mostly routine and local. The treasury has a surplus of near \$5,000, so they are well fixed financially.

Our good friend Carson is again on hand with one of his exhaustive, comprehensive, positive and interesting reports on Correspondence, covering near two hundred pages and carefully considering the transactions of nearly the entire Templar world. To this is added another paper relating to the history of the organization of the Grand Encampment of the United States. Also a short but very emphatic paper under the heading of "The National Ritual," in which Bro. Enoch proceeds to demolish the works and utterances of Rev. Sir Finch, of Massachusetts, who seems to have been indulging in the luxury of discussing matters about which he knew nothing. All who know Bro. Enoch and his style can readily imagine the fur was bound to fly in a case of this sort: but we shall copy the entire paper. It is good reading and contains some history that it is as well to preserve.

#### THE NATIONAL RITUAL.

In our report for 1893 we gave a brief history of the adoption of the National Templar Ritual and a critical review of the same as amended at Denver.

We had hoped that some of the reviewers would have something to say in approving or controverting the particular points we made. We are disappointed. A few of them gently acquiesce in the truth of our history, that the National Ritual originated and was adopted at St. Louis; that it was simply amended at Denver. None of them, however, have ventured to controvert our criticism upon the ceremonial itself.

To those who claim that the Ritual of the Red Cross was improved at Denver we have this to say: Gentlemen you are certainly woefully deficient in drama or ritualistic genius. That a change was made is a fact, but to say that it was an improvement is utterly absurd. Under the old ceremonial, the High Priest in Jerusalem administered the obligation of the grade covering the entire ceremonial, which was to end in Babylon. Under the revised ceremonial the obligation is administered in Babylon by one not a Mason at all, yet covering the Masonic degrees, which are

supposed so be given in Jerusalem, and then to add to the absurdity of the ceremonial, this foreign prince, not a Mason himself, proclaims all the foreign dignitaries present Knights of the order of the Red Cross--equivalent to proclaiming them all Master Masons, Mark Master Masons, Past Masters, Most Excellent and Royal Arch Masons. We have only contempt for such tinkering.

The Rev. Bro. Finch, of Massachusetts, in referring to our assertion that the Ritual adopted at St. Louis was essentially the Massachusetts Ritual, says:

"We repeat it once more that the ritual in question was not essentially, i. e., assuredly, decidedly, unequivocally, purely, absolutely, seriously, or to put it more mildly, in its quintessence, quiddity, gist, marrow, incarnation, the old, time-honored ritual of Massachusetts and Rhode Island; and we respectfully submit that we have furnished facts to support this statement."

How easy it is to make a claim. "We have furnished facts?" All of which our Rev. Bro. Finch seems to think he controverted by as it were saying, you're another.

In another place he says:

"The present writer, who to his cost, knew something of that Ritual, for he was then actively working in this Commandery, stands shoulder to shoulder with Brother Rugg<sup>2</sup>, and as indignantly denies [that it was the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Ritual] it."

Our brother says "that ritual." We think we have discovered our Reverend Brother's mistake, in fact we have discovered that he does not and never did know anything about the official Massachusetts Templar Ritual. He says: "For he [the writer] was then actively working in his Commandery." We don't clearly understand what he means by "then." We assume, however, it was during the time when he was Prelate and Eminent Commander of a Commandery. Inasmuch as our Reverend Brother has called us bad names by implication, if not direct, saying that our claim that the ritual was the official Massachusetts and Rhode Island Ritual, and our veracity having been persistently assailed by Massachusetts Knights, and now as our Reverend Brother has so "assuredly, decided, unequivocally," etc., concluded that he has demonstrated that we have falsified in our statement, and as it is an old Shakespearian maximum with us:

"I [we] do despise a liar as I [we] do despise one that is false."

We will, in vindication of ourselves from the Massachusetts libels on our character, produce some documents that we hope will set our Reverend Brother to thinking whether he hasn't made a bad mess.

Referring to the printed proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts, we find that the Rev. Bro. P. V. Finch is a member and a Past Eminent Commander of Connecticut Valley Commandery, located at Greenfield, Mass. We also find that the dispensation for this Commandery was granted by Grand Commander Titus, December 22, 1866. The printed proceedings of 1867, state that the Commandery was chartered October 30, 1867, and in the list of Commandery organizations, we find that the Rev. Bro. Finch was the Prelate of that body. He appears again in the list for 1867 in the same office, then for 1869 he appears as Eminent Commander. His name does not again appear as an officer of the Commandery to date. He was Prelate from 1866 to 1869, and for 1869-70 he was Eminent Commander. This must be the period he refers to when he says, "For he was then actively working in the Commandery." We accept this as a fact. Then what follows? There was no official Templar Ritual in use in Massachusetts and Rhode Island during that time.



At the conclave of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, in 1870, the committee to whom was referred the subject of work, i. e., ritual, reported :

"The subject of uniformity of work in this Grand Body has attracted the attention of its members for many years, and different methods have, from time to time, been attempted in order that we might arrive at a successful and satisfactory conclusion; but its endeavors have not been attended with the success that the importance of the subject demands."

This is evidence that there was not uniformity. This follows in the report :

"The adopted work in the subordinate bodies, is not so diverse and fixed in its differences, that a judicious remedy could not be adopted to neutralize all the differences and restore work and ritual to wished for harmony."

Again, showing want of uniformity :

"From 1865 to the present time, the work has been annually exemplified by different bodies, which have exhibited various degrees of excellence and various degrees of correctness, as we understand the work. \* \* We have unconsciously allowed innovations to creep in, and have neglected to apply the remedy at the proper time, and hence the subject has assumed its present serious proportions."

The committee continued as follows :

"In 1869 the work was exemplified by a special committee, selected, it was thought, with great care. After repeated rehearsals they exhibited before this Grand Body the Orders of the Red Cross, Temple, and Malta. They were carefully rendered, and apparently gave satisfaction; but the endeavor was unfortunate. This Grand Body was not, seemingly, prepared for it. The various Encampments were not, apparently, ready to change the work they were severally practicing: for, on a call, amendments and suggestions were offered in profusion. One Knight announcing that he was prepared with over fifty instances of variations from the work of his own Encampment. The committee appointed to consider these changes gave up in despair of reconciling so many differences, and thus the attempt ended."

The committee recommended a convention of Commanderies—three from each Commandery, one to be the Eminent Commander—to meet on call of the Grand Commander: the work and lectures to be fully rehearsed and the convention to definitely decide, "with a view to make it (the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Ritual), final and binding." This recommendation was adopted.

Now we want to impress upon our Rev. Bro. Finch that up to this time, October 28, 1870, there was no standard or uniform Templar Ritual in Massachusetts; nor was the standard ritual adopted until May 26, 1871. Each Commandery had its own favorite. What ritual was it that Bro. Finch "was actively working," and "to his cost," too, from 1867 to the end of his official career in Connecticut Commandery?

Sir Benjamin Dean, then Grand Commander, called a convention of the Knight Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island to formulate a ritual. The convention was in session February 16th, 17th, and May 26, 1871. A ritual was agreed upon and transmitted to the Grand Commandery, and at its semi-annual session, May 26, 1871, the revised ritual was adopted. This was the ritual that was given to the Ritual Committee by Grand Master Dean at San Francisco, 1883.

And now as to the authenticity of that copy, we submit the following copied from the volume:

The manuscript is a small quarto in size, 8½ inches high by 6¼ inches wide. The matter is arranged as follows: Beginning on page 3-9, Red

Cross opening, etc.; Red Cross lecture, page 11-35; Explanation of part of Red Cross ceremony, page 36-38; 39-40, blank; Temple, opening, page 41-45; page 46, note by Alfred F. Chapman, Grand Recorder; Temple, Section 2, (ceremonial) page 47-77; note, explanatory, by Alfred F. Chapman, Grand Recorder, page 78; Ascension address, page 79-82; page 83, blank; page 84, note by Alfred F. Chapman, Grand Recorder, as to what follows on the Order of Malta. Malta, page 85-89; 90, blank; Malta lecture, page 91-101; page 102, blank; Malta work, page 103-113; then page 114-115, the following:

"GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS, AND  
APPENDENT ORDERS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND. }  
OFFICE OF THE GRAND RECORDER.  
223 Washington Street, Boston, Mass., May 21, 1883. }

"To Benjamin Dean, Most Eminent Grand Master, Grand Encampment of Knights of Templars of the United States of America:

In compliance with your request, I hereby furnish you with the foregoing copy of the lectures and work of the three Orders of Knighthood, adopted by the Grand Commandery of Knights of Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island on the 26th day of May, A. D., 1871, A. O. 763.

"Said copy was made by myself from the original manuscript furnished to the Grand Commandery by you, passed upon by the convention, and afterwards adopted as above, and is the manuscript referred to in your address to the Grand Commandery in 1871, with the additions inserted as you will find, certified by me on pages 1, 46, 78 and 84 of this volume.

I am courteously yours,

"ALFRED F. CHAPMAN,  
Grand Recorder.

In further authentication of my acts and doings as above set forth, I have hereto affixed the seal of our Grand Commandery.

ALFRED F. CHAPMAN,  
"Grand Recorder."

{ Seal of the Grand Encampment (sic)  
of Mass. and Rhode Island.  
(Stamped on the page.) }

Page 116, blank; page 117, "the 4th L. as adopted by the Grand Encampment at its Twenty-first Triennial Conclave, 1880, Chicago;" "5th L. as adopted at the same conclave;" pages 118-142, end, blank.

We hope that the foregoing is enough to establish the regularity and legitimacy of this famous manuscript. We thank God that we kept this most important manuscript in our possession. It enables us to vindicate ourselves from all the vile charges, insinuations, etc., that the wicked and the ignorant have brought against the St. Louis Ritual Committee.

Compare the manuscript and the Ritual as submitted by the committee, and then bring in an honest verdict, finding who is guilty of malice, lying, and misrepresentation, and spare not!

Neither of our reverend brothers, Rugg nor Finch, appear to have participated in the convention which formulated the Massachusetts Templar Ritual in 1871. It is absolutely certain, however, that the Rev. Bro. Finch never worked the revised Ritual, as it was not adopted until some two years after he had ceased to be a worker in his Commandery. We doubt very much whether he ever saw it. In fact, if he is sincere and honest in what he writes, it is most evident that he never did see it.

Undoubtedly, when he was Eminent Commander of Connecticut Commandery he used some kind of Ritual. What was it? Beyond question it was not the revised and adopted Massachusetts Ritual, but it was an "old one"—no doubt about that—but we must say to our Reverend Brother, that it was not the Ritual given to the Ritual Committee at San Fran-

cisco : therefore it is not fair, nor Masonic for him to try the St. Louis Ritual Committee by his Connecticut Valley Commandery Ritual, claiming to be the Massachusetts Ritual.

We hope that we shall never have occasion to refer to this unpleasant subject again. We feel that we will not, if Massachusetts will only be generous enough to accept facts and conform to them, too, and refrain from from further ugly insinuations and misrepresentations.

The article on the organization of the Grand Encampment, though short, is forcible, to the point and convincing. As the subject is one we have never investigated, and, hence, know nothing about, we shall refrain from expressing an opinion as to the merits of the controversy. We are morally certain that Bro. Enochs can paddle his own canoe, and that none of his adversaries will be able to overcome him. Mississippi for 1894 gets five pages in his report. His review of our doings is exceedingly pleasant and fraternal. He says of the Law Report, and the conclusion reached therein, that the law of the Grand Lodge is supreme and must be obeyed :

Correct; that is all there was in it, and it was a waste of paper and time in getting up so elaborate an opinion, since the Grand Encampment had settled it definitely and beyond any possible question at its last Triennial Conclave, that the law of the Grand Lodge must prevail as to what shall be required in order to be recognized as a Master Mason in good standing, etc.

He closes a pleasant notice of our report as follows :

We (Ohio) reciprocate. We are very sorry that Brother DeLap did not have our report for 1893, for, as for ourselves, we regard as it as one of our best, and would have been much pleased to know just how Bro. DeLap would have treated it with that avenging blade of his. Take it up next year, Brother DeLap : treat as you will, and spare not.

Good-bye, Brother DeLap. We hope that we shall both live to meet again, at least as correspondents.

We have already paid our respects to Ohio for 1893. In it we found nothing upon which to draw our "blade," save, possibly, the lack of charity and Christian forbearance that sometimes crops out. We are are not at all sure that under like provocations we would be any more gentle and meek than he has been. We can say, amen ! heartily to the doxology, and pray the good Lord to have our brother in his Holy keeping always.

Sir John A. Warner is Grand Commander : Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### OREGON—1894.

Eighth Annual at Salem, October 9. R. : E. : Sir John M. Hodson, Grand Commander ; E. : James F. Robinson, Grand Recorder. Six Commanderies were represented.

The address is a short but well written resume of the salient features of his administration. We clip the following :

The labors and sacrifices of those who have aided in moulding the conditions we enjoy to-day, are worthy of our highest consideration. It is needless to refer to the great antiquity of the Masonic fraternity, except

to note that it was the natural outgrowth of the conditions surrounding human effort in the ages during which its principles were formulated. In the traditional period it was classed among the "Sacred Mysteries," and Plutarch says: "All the mysteries refer to a future life and the state of the soul after death." We know that the teachings of the fraternity are calculated to make men wiser and better, and consequently happier; but the great question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" so far as its conclusions are concerned, remains unanswered. To the solution of this problem, all the systems of philosophy have devoted their best energies; and, with one accord, the wisdom of the world has sought a satisfactory answer in vain; but the Apostle to the Gentiles clears away the mist of ages, saying, "Life and immortality were brought to light by Jesus Christ." And upon this basic truth rests our Valiant and Magnanimous Order."

He recommended a change in their law making all the Grand Officers elective, which was done. He reports a fair degree of prosperity and that peace reigns. We find nothing in the proceedings of general interest. Total membership 383—a gain of 15.

The Correspondence is the work of Grand Commander Hodson, and is an excellent paper. It covers eighty pages, and digests the transactions of most branches of the Templar family, Mississippi for 1894 among the elect. His review of our pamphlet is fraternal and kind. He quotes a part of the Law Report, anent the Templar standing of a Knight who was a non-affiliate Master Mason, and says, " \* \* \* We are in full sympathy with the action of Mississippi."

Of our report, he remarks:

Sir Geo. DeLap again handles the reportorial pen right vigorously, yet with less gall than former years. As a specimen of "vitrified brick," we quote a remark on the question of the use of wine at banquets, raised by Grand Commander Neff, and we must say that Bro. DeLap is very close to the level truth:

"We have had the honor to remark, on several former occasions, that neither wine nor strong drink has any place at a Templar or Masonic banquet, and the observation of our California brother too sadly demonstrates the truth of the proposition. We dismiss the subject now with the remark that these adjuncts to accelerate the downward passage of human souls to hell are equally out of place at headquarters at Triennials, on a Christian's side-board, table, in his pantry, jug or stomach. The religion of Christ, or even a fairly pure morality, and strong drink, won't mix, worth a cent."

We make no apology for incorporating ALL the above. It is good, common sense, and can not be too often repeated.

He closes with us in the following language:

There is much of good sense, spice and kindness, as well as some knock-down epithets, in this report, and in his closing remarks he frequently invokes a blessing on the head of the fellow he has just flayed. In many cases it seems like a pugilist knocking his victim down, and immediately saying "God bless you," to make up for the injury.

There is no malice in any of our deliverances.

The following, which we find under Michigan, indicates that our good brother is a "Seventh Day Baptist." Whatever he is, however, in his church affiliation, he has, evidently, the courage of his convictions and that is what we like.

He devoted more than a page to the already settled question of conferring the Templar orders on Sunday, because he imagines our remarks last year contained a sneer when we stated that Sunday was so called because certain ancient people worshiped the sun upon that day of the week. In all his remarks he fails to point a single authority, either inspired or otherwise, for changing the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. In fact, there is no such authority. Men like Constantine, who is one of our patron saints, probably decreed the change, and we have no objection until divine authority and holiness for the day is claimed; and then we smile and pity, not sneer. That is the weapon of ridicule and contempt we might use for correction of wickedness, but never for honest mistaken belief. Christmas, Easter and Ascension day, not to mention Good Friday or any of the days in Lent, are just as sacred, and we believe in observing as many of them as circumstances will permit; but don't talk about any of them being holy, nor we commanded by Deity to observe them as sacred.

There are lots of good things in this report, but we must pass on to the next.

Sir Philip S. Malcolm is R. E. Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### PENNSYLVANIA--1894.

Forty-first Annual at Pittsburg, May 22: E. Sir Irving P. Wanger, Deputy Grand Commander, presiding; E. Sir Mont Smith, Grand Recorder.

The opening of the address of the acting Grand Commander shows why he was called upon to fill the place. We copy:

"The light of the eye and breathing of the lips" of him whom your free suffrage called to the highest office in your gift, "in their language of fraternal greeting, having ceased for us forever on this side of the grave," it is my duty to report to you the performance of the duties pertaining to the office of Grand Commander during the past Templar year, and the consciousness of my inability to do full justice to the lamented dead and to the fraternal interests involved, would so embarrass the effort as to make its imperfections painfully apparent, were it not for the knowledge of your realization of the situation and sympathy in the ordeal. Your generous hearts share with mine the sorrow for our great loss, and you will magnanimously bear with me in the presentation of the doings of him whom Providence in its wisdom called from hence, and of the official actions which our laws called upon me to perform by reason of the dispensation.

A perfect record of the doings of a Grand Commander can only be presented by himself. He alone is cognizant of all the facts and circumstances under which he acted, and of the reasons for his conclusions. He alone can only give his ripe judgment and wise counsels on the matters pertaining to the welfare of the Order, and the measures necessary for its greatest prosperity and usefulness.

From the books and papers left by our late Grand Commander, it is evident that he was engaged in the preparation of his Annual Report, and some topics are discussed as he doubtless intended to present them to you. But they do not embrace all the matters in reference to which he acted, nor do they more than suggest the recommendations which he would have submitted for your consideration.

With these preliminary observations, I submit the following report of the doings of our beloved Right Eminent Grand Commander :

We beg to offer our sincere sympathy.

His dispensations were for legitimate ends.

The acting Grand Commander then gave his own address, which he prefaced with a short account of the incidents preceding and following the decease of Grand Commander Baer. We find nothing of general interest in his administration, although his report shows him to be a zealous, careful, conservative and courteous officer. The proceedings are local. A reduction of forty per cent on dues from Subordinate Commanderies for current year, was ordered, the Grand Treasury containing a balance of near \$6000.

We also find in the pamphlet, the minutes of an Emergent Conclave of the Grand Commandery for the purpose of trying a delinquent member thereof for malfeasance in office, all of which is inexpressibly sad. May God be gracious to him, give him a repentant heart and grace to return to the right way and follow it always. May he be able to reinstate himself in the esteem of his brethren, recover his self-respect, and finally reach heaven, where temptation and sin never come. Amen !

A report on Correspondence, covering 60 pages, and considering the minutes of most of the Templar family, is the maiden effort of Bro. Lee S. Smith. In it we find evidences of much talent in our new brother as a reporter, and welcome him to the honors and rewards that await the valiant and live mutual. As Mississippi is "not in it," the report is a little shaky, but as that was, doubtless, the result of the unusual delay in the publication of our proceedings, we forgive the omission. We copy the "Opening Choruses."

When we accepted the position of Correspondent, pressed upon us by the Grand Commander, we did so with misgivings as to the propriety of our assuming such responsibilities as that office placed upon us.

First, because of the press of our business and other duties already assumed ; and,

Second, but by no means the least, on account of the important relation to the veteran writers composing the Reportorial Corps of the various Grand Commanderies, which an acceptance created.

But, believing in the law of obedience, inculcated all through the various degrees and orders of Masonry and Knighthood, we could not but obey.

In writing this report we have tried to do it independent of the ideas or opinions of others, simply as it seemed advisable in our way of looking at the subjects considered or actions or decisions discussed.

Indeed, should we have done otherwise, we fear we would have made a fearful muddle of it. Especially so had we tried to be guided by the views and ideas of the learned writers from the various jurisdictions. For instance, one will earnestly advise against quotations from reports, addresses, etc., and criticize all who follow such practice. Another equally competent correspondent will advise the culling of all gems of wisdom. And so it goes.

For our part, believing that there is no better place for storing and preserving words of wisdom and advice, which may tend to the improvement and upbuilding of our noble Order, than in the printed proceedings of the Grand Commandery, we have selected such, as to our mind, seemed

to be worthy, and we do so with thanks to the originators and no apologies to the Fraternity.

It is a privilege accorded to but few, to be permitted to peruse the proceedings of the various Grand Commanderies, and for that reason, if for no other, we deem it eminently proper to preserve these gems in our Grand Commandery, thus bringing them into closer touch with the leading minds of the great army of Knights Templar throughout the world.

Sir Irving P. Wanger is Grand Commander; Sir Mont H. Smith, Grand Recorder; Sir Lee S. Smith, Correspondent.

#### TENNESSEE—1894.

A special Conclave was held March 11, at Chattanooga, for the purpose of paying the last honors to our beloved friend and Bro. P. G. Commander and Grand Recorder, George C. Connor. We clip the following from the address of P. G. Prelate, J. W. Bachman, and what follows:

On Monday last I visited him and found him fully aware of his condition. He freely, and of his own accord, said to me: "Doctor, I am near the end of my days. My physicians say I have only a little while to live. I still have hope; but may soon go hence. I want to say to you that I have great confidence in my Heavenly Father. He will do right by me. If I deserve punishment He will wive it to me." I said to him: "Major, we can have mercy through Jesus Christ." He replied: "Yes, yes." I then spoke to him of the reality of Christ as a Redeemer and friend to me, and mentioned that when we were at Nazareth, Christ seemed to be actually present with us at evening prayer, as with the disciples of old, to comfort us as strangers far from home and earthly friends. He said: "Yes, yes," and then added: "Doctor, after all the wanderings of faith, I do fully trust Him." He then quoted this stanza from one of Montgomery's hymns:

"Here in this body pent,  
Absent from Thee I roam;  
But nightly pitch my moving tent  
A day's march nearer home."

He then added: "Tell my brethren I go away looking to God." In the hands of that God, the Judge of all the earth, who will do right, we leave him. Into the same hands you and I shall go to give account for all the deeds done in the body. Make ready. Our days are numbered, and they may be few. "Be ye also ready. In an hour that ye think not, the Son of Man cometh." Let me persuade you that the real world is beyond. Prepare for it. This is the vanishing world. "The things which are not seen are eternal: the things which are seen are temporal."

The services at the residence were then closed by the singing of the hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

The following Knights Templar were detailed as pall-bearers, to-wit: Sir Wilbur F. Foster, Sir Charles H. Brandon, Sir Bernard F. Price, Sir N. S. Woodward, Sir J. S. Griffiss, Sir W. F. Fischer, Sir W. W. Simpson and Sir John B. Nicklin.

The lines were reformed under the command of Right Eminent Sir William C. Smith, as Grand Captain General, and the funeral procession, preceded by more than two hundred Master Masons in line, proceeded to the cemetery, where the full Templar service for the dead was performed by the Right Eminent Grand Commander Sir William M. Brooks, assisted by the Eminent Grand Prelate Sir William M. Pettis.

With a chosen number of Knights forming an arch of steel above the grave, the hymn "Nearer My God to Thee," was most sweetly sung.

Lines were then reformed, and returned to the Asylum of Lookout Commandery, when the Special Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee was closed.

Thirty-second Annual at Chattanooga, May 9 and 10: R.: E.: Sir Wm. M. Brooks, Grand Commander: E.: Sir Wilbur F. Foster, as Grand Recorder.

The address is an excellent paper, but aside from its references to necrology is devoid of general interest. His visitations were quite extensive, and resulted, no doubt, in good. Dispensations proper. Of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home he has this to say:

#### MASONIC WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' HOME.

This important charity, I am glad to say, seems about to enter upon a new era of prosperity. President Toney, of the Home, desires me to announce that the building will be dedicated at noon on June 23d, 1894, by Most Worshipful Grand Master Chambers, assisted by his Grand Officers. Knights Templar are especially invited to be present, and the reduced rates arranged with the various railroads will bring the trip within the reach of all. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," said our Lord and Master, and it lies peculiarly within the lines of duty of the Knight Templar to contribute, by counsel and purse, towards helping the destitute widow and the helpless orphan.

At which we rejoice, although our good Bro. Foster thinks we are not very enthusiastic in this direction. If there is anything of human origin that finds a very warm place in our heart, such enterprises as these occupy the "amen corner" always.

His "vale" reads this way:

To be a Knight of the Cross is to be a model for our fellows and a guide to the young Mason. Life is not all vanity, and it behooves us to remember that the snow-white plume which waves above our heads symbolizes a purity which should be sacredly preserved, so that our young followers, with zeal in their hearts, moved by enthusiasm, may follow our steps even as the Knights of France spurred after the fluttering plume of Henry of Navarre. The charity of a Knight Templar reaches far beyond its measured two score miles. It overflows the mere physical needs of the weary Brother, it covers more than the pittance which places struggling hunger beyond the pain of suffering. It does not stop with cheerless words of sympathy for the destitute widow, nor with comfortless counsel for the innocent maid and the helpless orphan. For each and for all it has the kindly smile, the warm hand and the sparkling eye which make the bright sunshine of the heart, beaming in mellowness upon the hard lines of the poor, lighting their hearts with radiance, and scattering fragrant flowers which bury sorrow out of tearful sight and give hope to the tired spirit.

It would be a blissful thing if we always remembered and acted upon these truths. Theoretically we are all right; practically we are "not in it" by a large majority.

Proceedings local. Order quiescent. The trace broke and the institution fell back a cog. Total membership, 1094, "a loss of one!"

A "Grand Conclave of Sorrow" was held at the Presbyterian church,



at which an eloquent and fitting eulogium was pronounced by Past Grand Commander Howell.

The lamented and inimitable Connor has a worthy successor, both as Grand Recorder and Correspondent, in the person of Bro. Foster, who presents an admirable report covering seventy-seven pages and reviewing the proceedings of nearly all the Templar family. He opens as follows:

#### EXPLANATORY.

The ninth of March, 1894, was a day of sorrow and grievous misfortune in Tennessee. In the early hours of a bright spring morning, just as the rising sun kissed with its earliest rays the lofty brow of his beloved "Lookout," at his home in Chattanooga, surrounded by friends and cheered and sustained by an "unflinching trust" in the merits of Emmanuel—God with us—the restless spirit of Sir George Cooper Connor softly, peacefully passed away.

The busy brain and the untiring hand are at rest, and the eloquent voice is hushed forever.

But this is no place for eulogy. It was found, to the great regret of all, upon examination of Brother Connor's papers, that no word or note, or memorandum even, had been prepared as a beginning of his Report on Correspondence to our thirty-second Conclave.

In this emergency, this writer, at the earnest request of our Grand Commander, in the intervals of a busy life, has attempted to supply something, without the hope that it will even pass as a lame apology for the treat our Fraters have so many years been receiving. We trust the Knights at home and abroad will accept it as a sincere, though inadequate, effort to supply a deficiency, and to express the appreciation of the Knights of Tennessee for the many kind words, in the years that have passed, that were so freely given to him that will write no more.

And for the future, we do not doubt that one will be found who will faithfully serve his brethren at home, and win the hearts of our Fraters abroad. For him, whoever he may be, we bespeak in advance, the loyal support of the Knights of Tennessee, and the friendship and cheering words of the "Mutuals"—God bless them—wherever they may be.

Mississippi for 1893 receives a pleasant review. We copy what he has to say of your committee:

**CORRESPONDENCE**—The report is by Sir E. G. DeLap, Past Grand Commander, and contains more originality, independence and, we believe, sincerity in its sixty pages than could be boiled down out of 600 of the common sort, "one of whom we are which." But then our Brother knows his reports are good, as he complacently admits under Arkansas, and he therefore will not set down this remark as "taffy." With our Brother's remarks about whisky-selling Knights Templar, the use of slang in the pulpit, etc., we fully agree. We think he is a little bit lukewarm in his support of Masonic Homes, but we are glad to see he is not unfriendly.

Thanks, awfully! for all but the last clause, which is a slander. The following explains itself:

As to Sir Knight DeLap's denunciation of "armed piety," "military religion," etc., as he characterizes the practice of attending Church service in Knights Templar uniform, we suggest for his consideration the light in which it has always appeared to this writer. First, then, it is for the very reason that I am not a hypocrite, and that I am willing at any and all times, and in whatever garb I may be, to declare my loyalty to Almighty God, that I do not deem it necessary to lay aside the regalia of

a Knight Templar, and assume a citizen's dress, in order to kneel in prayer. There is no dress so fine, no equipment so elaborate, that it must be removed for such a purpose. And when Knights Templar go to Church in organized capacity for the purpose of worship, it should be in the fullest regalia, the most perfect equipment of the Order, so that the world may know that in the most unequivocal manner we do publicly bow in worship and acknowledge our first allegiance as due to the Christian's God whom we adore.

Sir Knight DeLap devotes liberal space to his review of Tennessee and quotations from Sir Knight Connor's report of 1892, and his comments thereon, all of which were, doubtless, read by our brother before his death. We greatly regret that he did not prepare his response.

We are grateful for our brother's views, so clearly expressed, but were it not for the fact that we have quit talking about this thing, we could, in a moment, so completely demolish Bro. Foster's theories that it would take him a week to determine "where he is at."

As we have already given Tennessee more space than her share, we are compelled to quit.

Sir Chas. H. Eastman, is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent, P. G. C. W. F. Foster, both of Nashville.

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#### SOUTH DAKOTA—1894.

Eleventh Annual at Deadwood, June 15th. R. E. Geo. H. Rathman, Grand Commander! E. Sir Wm. H. Holt, Grand Recorder. Nine chartered Commanderies and one U. D. were represented.

The address is a business paper and contains an exhaustive resume of a painstaking administration.

Another year in the history of our Grand Commandery is nearly completed, and at this time, as your Grand Commander, it affords me pleasure to extend to you all a most hearty and knightly welcome to our eleventh annual Conclave.

For a brief time we have put aside the cares and worry incident to our daily vocations, to participate in transacting the business of this Grand Body and to enjoy the companionship of our knightly gathering. We have assembled here in this beautiful city cradled in the hills, and to us from east of the river, a most interesting portion of our fair state. We are the guests of Dakota Commandery, No. 1, the oldest Commandery in our jurisdiction, and the Sir Knights of the Black Hills bid us a right royal welcome, which we thoroughly appreciate.

Our first thoughts on this occasion should be to offer thanks to our Heavenly Father, the Giver of all good and perfect gifts, for the many blessings we are permitted to enjoy.

He reports that the year has been one of prosperity, a gain of 95 in membership having been made. Total membership 755.

His decisions were few and devoid of general interest. He is sound on the "dispensation" question. He recommends the bonding of the Grand Recorder, which was endorsed by the Grand Body. The proceedings are devoid of general interest.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

This is the work of Bro. W. D. Stites, and is his third effort in this field.

It covers seventy-six pages and notices the transactions of nearly all the Templar family. Mississippi for 1893 among the rest. His "opening chorus" is as follows:

In this, our third annual report, we present a review of all the proceedings of Grand Commanderies and Great Priories with which we are in correspondence. We find our attention called to the printed proceedings of thirty-nine Grand Jurisdictions. It will be seen that Templar Masonry is growing every year in membership, and there never was such a reign of peace and prosperity as now exists. The Ritual question having been settled, we can now devote our time to the upbuilding of our magnanimous order. We do not expect that our work will in all respects prove satisfactory, but indulge ourselves in the anticipation of the reward of a duty fully performed to the best of our abilities. We have endeavored to give a review of the condition of Templar Masonry, and what we have selected from the printed proceedings of sister jurisdictions will pay your perusal.

Here is a good one on one good Bro. Enoch, of Ohio, under which he states that: "The Correspondence is presented for the *eightieth* (80th) (italics ours) time by Sir Enoch T. Carson, P.G.C." This makes our friend rather elderly. Let us see. He was twenty-one when made a mason, at least; was probably twenty-five. To this add at least ten years for him to "pass the chairs" in the Grand Bodies and attain sufficient prominence to be placed at the head of this committee, which would lead to the result of 25x10x80—115 years as the present age of Sir Enoch T.! If the figures are correct, the *old* gentleman is entitled to a discharge and a pension. However, he is the liveliest and most vigorous centenarian, intellectually and otherwise, that we have ever heard of. Long may he wave!

Bro. Stites gets up an excellent report, and we welcome him to the family of the "mutuals" with open arms. We note, however, that he is not reappointed, which we regret. When you get a good thing, save it if you can, is our advice.

Sir Wm. J. McMackin is Grand Commander; Sir W. H. Holt is Grand Recorder, and Sir Geo. A. Pettigrew, Correspondent.

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#### VERMONT -1894.

Fifty-second annual at Burlington, June 12th. Sir Marsh O. Perkins, Grand Commander; Sir Warren G. Reynolds, Grand Recorder. Ten Commanderies were represented.

The address is an excellent business paper. It opens as follows:

#### SIR KNIGHTS—

Nearly three-quarters of a century ago a little band of earnest Christian Knights first raised the standard of their order within the borders of our beloved state. With rejoicing and hope they unfurled their symbolic banner on that historic spot where less than a half century before the hardy pioneers of a new-born commonwealth had struck aside tyranny's shackles, and boldly proclaimed their independence before the world. Where Freemasonry was early cradled with the infant republic, if not actually given life in freedom's new-found home, whence triumphant o'er fell injustice.

"She cometh now  
With hope on the lip and pride on the brow  
Stronger and dearer and fairer."

to be crowned with a century's laurel. It was eminently fitting that on such a spot, hallowed by the chivalrous and patriotic deeds of God-fearing men, and the ministrations of Brotherly Love, the Templar's altar, consecrated to the blessed Immanuel, should be first erected among these woodland homes.

Following this he gives an epitome of the early and latter history of the order in Vermont, which, while interesting reading, is too long for our pages. Touching the new ritual he remarks:

There may be a diversity of opinion as to the propriety and usefulness of certain features of the ritual, now in use, but it is a matter of congratulation that the problem of a national uniformity has been so satisfactorily solved. It is fervently hoped that the recorded unanimity of expression of opinion of the Grand Encampment in approval of the same may be fully and truly supplemented by a long continued corresponding unanimity of action on the part of all owing it allegiance. The warmest commendations of the ritual, as a whole, come from those who have most thoroughly familiarized themselves with the changes from the old, and especially so in the new presentation of the illustrious Order of the Red Cross. An element of weakness, however, may be found, in the provision, whereby different renderings of various parts of the Order of the Temple are permissible, if absolute uniformity is to be maintained throughout any given jurisdiction. Believing that such uniformity is specially desirable in Vermont, it is recommended that immediate action be taken by the Grand Commandery to define the particular form, where now "elasticity" appears, to be used by the Commanderies of its obedience.

He closes in the following eloquent strain:

And now, Sir Knights, in the language of another, "Let us never forget amid the noise and turmoil and strife of our life-work, that above our heads another battle is raging, in which all our struggles find their only true significance. It is the battle of principles—the unending strife of right with wrong, of truth with error, of good with evil, of light with darkness, and he who has most possessed himself of the knowledge of that upper warfare will best conduct the fight, amid the clang of arms and the shock of opposing battalions. Though the armies of error are more subtle and fiercer than the shadowy legions of Attila, the hosts of God are stronger still, for the cross is with them, and by that sign they conquer."

Proceedings local. Total membership 1323, a gain of 40.

The Correspondence is the finished work of our good friend and brother, Kittridge Haskins, covers 59 pages and nearly all the ground, not including Mississippi. In regard to this he says, in his closing :

The proceedings of Kentucky and Mississippi we have never received. Whether the fault is in the Grand Recorders of those jurisdictions, or that of our own Grand Recorder we have not been able to learn. The non-receipt of the Mississippi proceedings has been a source of disappointment to us, for we have formed a sort of liking for Brother DeLap, and were anxious to read his criticisms of our address to the Grand Commandery in 1893. And in addition to the above, we have found him a very interesting writer. He has faults. But who of us has not?

And now in making our parting bow, we say as we did at the beginning, that this is our first effort as a reviewer, but we have endeavored to supply our fraters with some little information as to what is being done in our sister Grand Jurisdictions. We know it is an imperfect work, but is the best we could do in the short time we had to devote to it. All of which is  
 Courteously submitted.

The fault, so far as our's is concerned, is not with the Recorder of Ver-

mont. The trouble was in the delay, long drawn out, in publishing our pamphlet. It was unfortunate, but no one was in fault that we wot of. Our brother has doubtless, ere this, read our criticisms of his very able speech or address, and we are glad to know that there was nothing said that is unkind or that could wound.

It is very pleasant to us to read, in the above, that he has "formed a sort of liking" for us, and only regret that he does not know us well enough to give us the greater consideration of affectionate regard. We are too plain spoken and too pronounced in our views to win the friendship and esteem of the multitude, nor do we particularly care for it, but when we come across a man of sense and discernment, and who has the courage of his convictions, no matter what they are, we hanker after the friendship and love of such an one. When I "meet up" with a man (?) whose opinions are as variable as the company with which he is thrown, I do not care for his likes or dislikes. You never know where to find him.

Bro. Haskins' maiden effort is worthy of an old veteran of the pencil and paste. Under California he preaches the following eloquent and sensible sermon:

But we do not consider "that our profession of belief is broad enough to include all those who profess to believe the Christian religion in its broadest and most comprehensive sense," as is generally understood and accepted at this day.

Every applicant for the Orders of Knighthood is required to honestly and sincerely declare that he is a firm believer in the Christian religion, and under the Ritual he is solemnly pledged to stand in its defence. As to what is the Christian religion, there is no room for reasonable doubt or cavil among those who are sincerely desirous of finding and possessing it. It is to be found in that which has been held and maintained by the Christian Church from the earliest centuries since the Christian era, and in defence of which so many have suffered martyrdom. It involves a belief in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, and in a firm adherence to that faith, which was once, for all, delivered to the saints by Christ Himself. In short, it is contained in the several articles of the Apostle's Creed. It is that which was taught by Jesus Christ while on earth, by Him committed to His apostles and disciples, and by them transmitted to us through His Church and the New Testament Scriptures.

In many jurisdictions, Knights Templar are permitted to attend Divine service in a body, on Good Friday, Easter and Ascension days. We believe in their doing so, notwithstanding the opposition of many others. In the course of our solemn ceremonials, the crucifixion, the resurrection and the ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, are events brought prominently before the candidate for the orders and deeply impressed upon his mind and heart. Is it possible for an intelligent man to pass through what we have and not feel and believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God, and while having a human nature like our own, yet was Divine? Now we do not say that a Knight Templar may not attend service on any of the days named, and listen to a sermon by the eloquent "Bob" Ingersoll, or by a minister of a religious sect—Unitarian if you please—who deny the Divinity of Christ. Were the writer, however, to be invited to attend in the character of a Knight Templar, he would reply, "I am not in it." Not because a "Trinitarian would get harm from hearing a Unitarian sermon," or listening to an atheist or deist, but because it would be contrary to my profession as a Knight Templar. We are taught by our Ritual to believe that Christ suffered an ignominious death upon the cross; that He was buried in the tomb of Joseph; that early in

the morning of the third day He arose from the dead; that he appeared unto his disciples; that He said unto doubting Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing." And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God." That afterwards He led His disciples "out as far as Bethany; that He lifted up His hands and blessed them: and it came to pass that while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." Were we to attend Divine service on Good Friday, we should naturally expect to hear something of the human trials and sufferings of our Lord and His crucifixion; on Easter day of His glorious resurrection, and on Ascension day of His triumphant ascension into heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of God as a mediator and intercessor for us all. If this is doctrinal or theological, then is our Order so, for it is nothing more nor less than every true and faithful Templar believes. It is not meet, therefore, that we as Templars, bearing on our person the blood-red cross of Christ—that emblem of our faith—should attend service and listen to sermons by ministers of a religious sect, of whatever name or however respectable in the eyes of the world, who deny that which we are bound to believe. Not because harm would come to us, but because we are members of a Christian Order, and we should, by our example, let our lights so shine before men, that they seeing our good works may glorify our Father which is in heaven.

Bro. Haskins quotes the following criticism in the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Report on his "permissive order to the Subordinate Commanderies to perform escort duty on Memorial Day:"

"For like the discussion of religion and politics, which, as is well known, is rigorously excluded from our Conclaves, it is liable to endanger that harmony which lies at the foundation of every Masonic body. If it is proper for Templars to act as an escort to the war veterans of the North, it is equally proper for them to do similar duty for the war veterans of the South on the day when graves are decorated there. And as feeling on both sides may be created by it, the course of true wisdom, in the opinion of the writer, would be to adhere to the established policy of Knights Templar of taking no part, namely, in any save strictly Masonic events."

Whereupon Bro. Haskins comments as follows:

For instance, "To appear in uniform with music and banners" at some ball or concert held for charitable purposes; or to entertain with a parade and banquet some visiting Commandery, and in like manner to be entertained and banqueted "with wine and wit" in return. Does our noble Frater construe such occasions to be "strictly Masonic?"

When we consider that our Order is semi-military, that to perform escort duty is one of its special functions and always has been, that loyalty and obedience to law are among its grand characteristics, that our good works may be such that all others may well follow our example, it has always seemed to us that participation by Knights Templar in the solemn and impressive ceremonies of Memorial Day, was both Templar and Masonic. We do not believe in any narrow or contracted interpretation of the law. The rules that govern in symbolic masonry, in reference to public display, ought not to be applied as strictly to the Order of Templars. And yet the rules, regulations, charges, constitutions, and Code of Statutes, applicable to every grade in Masonry should in the light of the nineteenth century receive the most liberal construction. We are a firm believer in a liberal construction of the "general welfare" clause of the Constitution of the United States. Also that whatever is for the "general welfare" of our Order, is Templarism.

You give away nine points, at least, in your case, Bro. Finch, when you say that the practice is liable to create ill-feeling and thereby endanger the peace and harmony of the Order. Whose ill-feeling will be aroused? It is not a political observance. Politics has nothing whatever to do with it. Those who participate in the ceremony of decorating the graves of the fallen defenders of the nation's integrity and honor—the prayer, the song, the address—represent no party, sect or creed, but are American citizens.

There is not an honest, patriotic and intelligent person in this whole land today, that does not know that they of the South made war to destroy the American Union, and that in so doing they were radically in the wrong, and that we of the North, representing at that time the general government, put forth our best efforts to defend and protect it. Such is the history of the past, and it cannot be truthfully denied or questioned, and it is not political in me to say it. And notwithstanding all that, if the Knights Templar of the States once in rebellion desire to perform escort duty for the Confederate veterans, citizens and school children, who annually make their pilgrimage to the shrine of their dead and participate in decorating their graves with flowers, it will engender no ill-feeling at the North towards their Frates of the South. It would be a beautiful and touching observance, without any political significance whatever, and unworthy of us to object. Any other view would be discourteous, unknighly, craven. "He most lives who thinks most—feels the noblest—acts the best."

We won't say anything in reply, only that while our brother has an apparently strong position, it is, notwithstanding, not tenable. He is honest in his opinions, and we are no more.

There are many other good things in his report, but Vermont's space is full and more.

Grand Commander, Grand Recorder and Correspondent, as before.

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#### WISCONSIN—1894.

Thirty-Sixth Annual at Milwaukee, June 12, 13, 14 and 15. Eugene S. Elliott, R. E., Grand Commander; John W. Laffin, Grand Recorder.

A ponderous tome of 254 pages contains the transactions of this important jurisdiction, only five of which are used to contain the Grand Commander's address. As that was all the space he required, however, for the display of the events of his administration, we are not disposed to complain. We copy as follows to show the new plan tried for the first time at this Conclave:

I had the honor at the last Grand Conclave, in my address as Acting Grand Commander, to recommend that at this Conclave the members of this Grand Commandery be required to attend at the head of their commands, and the Grand Commandery thought proper to approve that recommendation, and ordered accordingly. The four ranking Grand Officers were charged with the duty of arranging the details of this Conclave, and in compliance therewith have adopted a plan for the week, which has been specifically communicated to you. It is too early as yet, nor would it profit anything, to predict the results. "The proof of the pudding is the eating of it," is a homely old maxim but a true one. Within the week we shall know whether success or failure attends our efforts, so that we may as well bide our time in patience. I am highly gratified at

so large an attendance, but I regret to notice that all Commanderies are not properly represented. I particularly regret being obliged to inform you that early in May I received a request from Eminent Sir Joseph P. Funke, the Eminent Commander of LaCrosse Commandery, No. 9, to excuse his Commandery from attendance on the ground that only a limited number could be induced to come. To this I replied that I did not consider that I was authorized to excuse any Commandery from compliance with your edict and I urged him to appeal to his fraters not to suffer the honorable record of that Commandery to be marred by a failure to properly appear and perform the duties assigned to it.

In reply to this I received an official notice from the Recorder of that Commandery covering a resolution which he certified had been duly passed to the effect that LaCrosse Commandery would not attend this Grand Conclave as a Commandery. I bring these facts to your attention without comment, for such action as you may deem proper.

The plan ought to work up there, but is impracticable down here, owing to our poverty.

Reports, exhaustive and full, were made by the members of his staff, acting as inspecting officers. These show that the Order is generally in excellent shape in the Badger State. Twenty-six Commanderies were represented. Proceedings local. We infer that the Conclave as a reunion, to which the above clipping refers, was a distinguished success, and will, no doubt, be of much practical benefit to the brethren in that State. We hope so, at least.

Bro. Swain submits his twelfth annual report on Correspondence, which opens in the following style :

This is our Twelfth Annual Report. Owing to the change in time of holding our Annual Conclave many jurisdictions will pass unreviewed, and it is curtailed of its fair proportions. We can, however, congratulate our Fraters, here and elsewhere, on having an opportunity to read an account of one of the finest gatherings ever held, and an event of interest to all, whether in or out of our Order. In these days of turmoil and excitement, of anarchy and socialism, of unrest, and of bands of Coxeyites, it is refreshing to look upon such a body of men so closely allied to the principles of law and order.

It is unnecessary for us to express an opinion of the merit of the paper before us. Its parentage is ample evidence of its exalted worth.

Under Connecticut, and referring to memorial days, he says :

We do not think, because such occasions are not Masonic, they are necessarily un-Masonic, a term which carries an offensive meaning. We do not say the Grand Encampment could not allow parades on such occasions, but it does not. We do not think it difficult to define a Masonic or Templar occasion as one peculiar to the organizations, with which no one outside of them has anything to do.

All of which is correct, and sensible, and Bro. Wheeler knows it.

Under Missouri and anent the Christmas Day Toast he has this to say :

We bow to the inevitable : but we confess to a regret that the pleasant little, friendly, informal greeting which formerly constituted the Christmas libation among the guild, wherein the heart went out to all our confreres in the services, should grow into a formal observance, with ceremonies attached to it and set toasts, etc.

That is exactly the way it strikes us.



Under Montana we find this just tribute to him we consider the prodigy among reporters :

Cornelius Hedges puts in a Report on Correspondence, and he lives so so far from manufacturing centres, that he does not have any scissors, and does it all with his pen, and he flings in good things with a carelessness and abandon that would make the fortune of one of us Eastern reporters. He doesn't seem to have given up entirely his crusade for the liberation of Palestine, but admits that recruits are scarce. What's the matter with enlisting Coxey's army? and why didn't he corral come of the numerous branches of cranks which have started from out that way?

He says of DeLap's want of respect for dress-parade devotion : "Perhaps he has forgot that devout general who had his army baptized by platoons, by a priest who had the alternative to do that or be shot."

Under Nebraska this :

Query—Ought this not to have read "every Grand Commandery" instead of Subordinate Commandery?" Has a Grand Commandery any right to communicate official notices direct to the constituent Commanderies of another jurisdiction? Ought they not to be sent to the Grand Commanders of the various Grand Jurisdictions, and by them conveyed to the bodies under their rule?

Why not communicate direct? Frater Whitmarsh's method would be something like this: "To the Grand Commander of Illinois: There is a hog in my neighbor's Sir Knight Johnson's garden, just across the line in Wisconsin. Will you please notify the Grand Commander of Wisconsin, that he may have the Commander of his Commandery inform Johnson, so that he can drive him out? What would be your chances for green peas from that garden. Bro. Whitmarsh, by the time the information got to Johnson?"

Mississippi is absent from this "roll-call." In view of the fact that our pamphlet for current year was not printed when the Grand Commandery of Missouri met, the absence is not remarkable. We hope for better things in future.

Grand Commander, Recorder and Correspondent all continued.

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#### WASHINGTON—1894.

Seventh Annual at Spokane, September 10. Sir Eugene F. Wilson, R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Yancey C. Blalock, Grand Recorder. Seven Commanderies were represented.

The address of Grand Commander covers thirteen pages, and is an epitome of his administration. We copy his "opening chorus:"

Once more the cycle of time has rolled around and we meet again in the magic Cataract City in annual conclave, to deliberate upon the past and to legislate for the future. Hands are clasped in the warmth of fraternal greeting, and friendships formed under the banner of the cross are renewed. Cares of the past year of depression and panic are forgotten for the nonce in the charms of knightly companionship and intercourse, and the hearty welcome of that magnificent Commandery whose guests we are. Since our last Conclave the business world has been shaken from center to circumference by failures and misfortunes; the industries and enterprises of our State have been paralyzed, and the giant Distrust has stalked through our land, inoculating all with whom

he came in contact. This condition of affairs has affected, to a degree, the work and growth of most of our subordinates, though some have prospered and flourished in a manner entitling them to the greatest praise for the zeal and enthusiasm which has risen superior to all surroundings. As we glance back and consider the trials and vicissitudes through which we have passed, comparing them with the sufferings and privations endured in other and less favored jurisdictions, let us render thanks to the great Captain of our Salvation that our lots have been cast in a land where actual want is unknown.

The best way to settle this difficulty is to kill "The Giant Distrust," and have done with him. He has been in the habit, semi-occasionally, of kicking up these financial depressions, convulsions, nervous depressions, and "sich," and the sooner we follow the advice of the Psalmist and "Trust in the Lord, do good and dwell in the land," the sooner we can claim the promise of daily bread." "Man wants—or needs, rather—but little here below, nor wants that little long," and when we reflect that "We brought nothing into this world," and it is certain we can carry nothing out of it, the non-wisdom of getting distressed about the fluctuations of the markets, the rise and fall of stocks, and the character of the circulating medium, the happier we shall be. David said, "I have been young, but now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Our Lord said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (i. e., all needful temporal blessings) shall be added unto you." The promise is sure, then why should we worry? We are glad that our good brother finds much to be grateful for notwithstanding the wreck of fortunes, the convulsions of finance, and speculations of bank officials and the increase of population of the American Colony in Canada.

His dispensations were all for practical purposes, some of these being, in our opinion, unnecessary—for instance, one to a Commandery to escort the Grand Commander from its "Headquarters to the Asylum." Too much "red tape."

Among the questions asked, we find the following: "Is a Sir Knight required to obey a summons, or furnish a valid excuse for not doing so?" As the answer is obvious to the most obtuse, we do not quote it. His decisions are in accord with the law. The address is an excellent paper, all through.

We find the following in the minutes:

R.: E.: Sir Harry Rush rose to a point of order, and asked for a ruling from the R.: E.: Grand Commander upon the question of the right of the Grand Commandery to delegate its privilege of voting for Grand Officers by ordering the E.: Grand Recorder to cast the ballot for any candidate. The R.: E.: Grand Commander ruled that it was not in the province of any Sir Knight present at an election to delegate to the Grand Recorder or any other Sir Knight, his right of balloting for a candidate; that all Sir Knights voting should do so in person; that in case the ballot of the Grand Commandery for a candidate, it appears upon the face that the candidate so elected was the unanimous choice of the Grand Body, when in fact there might not be a majority of those present who favored his election, the desire of harmony prompting those who might be opposed to him to refrain from stating their objections.

We are of the opinion that the "point" was not well taken, for the reason that unanimous consent is necessary for this sort of action, and it is very easy for any member to "object," which kills the whole thing and a regular ballot must be had.

Total membership 584—a gain of 64.

The Correspondence is again from the scissors and brain of Grand Recorder Blalock, it being his third effort. In it he digests the transactions of most of the governing bodies of the Templar family in a pleasant and courteous manner, Mississippi for 1894 among the number.

We find much more of original matter in this paper, at which we rejoice. His review of our pamphlet is fraternal. Referring to our objection to the paucity of Blalock in his former reports, he has this to say:

We are just Irish enough to carry and use a shillalah, and our head is hard enough to stand all the "hits we would get, but we are a peaceable kind of "critter" and think one has enough to do without strutting around with a chip on the shoulder, which is the way some of the "bickerings" of the mutuals seem to us. We have our opinions and are willing to state them and stand by them until we are convinced we are in the wrong, but this is a large, healthy country, and there are others who live in it and who are entitled to an opinion as well as ourselves without being "hit." Did it ever "strike" you so, Sir DeLap?

To his query, we are obliged to say, no! No man has a right to go around with interesting and sensible "opinions" concealed about his person, and say nothing about them, hence the shillalah is a weapon that should never be returned to its scabbard and there let remain until consumed by rust, (or whatever else it may be that subsists on this sort of dirt.) Not to any great extent. "scarcely!" We flatter ourselves that the use of ours on Bro. B. has produced some good fruit, and we shall use it on him again should occasion arise. It is cold enough here today to freeze the tail off a cast-iron monkey, and we presume that away off in the extreme Northwest of our great and glorious country, where our brother lives, the monkey has crawled into the bulb and pulled the stem of the thermometer in after it! He has our sympathy and affection.

Sir Geo. N. Alexander is R. E. Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### WEST VIRGINIA—1894.

Twelfth annual at Weston, May 9th. R. E. Sir Alfred Paull, Grand Commander: E. Sir R. C. Dunnington, Grand Recorder.

The address is a short, but well-written paper. He opens as follows:

**SIR KNIGHTS:**—Another year in the history of this Grand Commandery has about reached its close, and it affords me great pleasure to extend to each and all of you a knightly greeting and a most hearty welcome to this, our Twentieth Annual Conclave. You are gathered here from all portions of our little Mountain State. You have come out of the love you bear the order, with a true zeal for its prosperity and welfare. Therefore may all that you do be done with an eye of singleness to its glory. As one who reaches the summit of a high mountain and pauses for a moment to look back over the road traveled, so today we take a retrospective

glance, and will endeavor to give you an account of the trust committed to our hands just one year ago, and in presenting you my official report it is with the fullest assurance of your kindly criticism, and if I have erred, which is but human, it is of the head and not of the heart.

Appropriate mention is made of the courteous dead, both of his own and other jurisdictions.

His dispensations were sensible. His decisions were, also, correct. He closes as follows:

Sir Knights, my labors, if such they may be called, are about ended. The duties have not been arduous, and my association with the Sir Knights has been the most agreeable and pleasant, and as I now take my official leave of you I desire to return to one and all of you my most sincere and hearty thanks, not only for the uniform courtesy and kindness that I have received at your hands but for the high honor you conferred upon me when you elected me Grand Commander. I know of no better parting words than the admonition contained in the following few lines:

"Are we ever true to a brother, in actions as well as in creed?  
Do we stand by his side as no other can stand in the hour of need?  
Do we boldly defend him from peril? And lift him from poverty's curse?  
Does the promise of aid, which we willingly made,  
Reach down from our lips to our purse?"

We find nothing of general interest in the minutes. Order in good shape. Total membership 726, a gain of 25.

Our good brother, O. S. (Old Style) Long, submits quite a long report on Correspondence, in which he handles the transactions of a large majority of the Templar jurisdictions in a masterly manner, our's for 1893 among the rest. There is an element of quiet humor in Bro. Long's deliverances that adds to the relish of a savory spread. His opening chorus is somewhat long, like its author, but it is so good that we clip it entire:

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence respectfully submits the following report. It is proper to say, by way of preface, that the writer confesses to the commission of an important error, (to say nothing of the many of less effect), an error which has permitted "the thief of time" to rob the report of whatever merit it might have possessed if it had been prepared leisurely and in favorable mental mood. Hurry clips the wings of fancy and makes a dray horse of Pegasus, and converts a report on correspondence into a bundle of dry statistics in which the only living twigs are the extracts that have been "twigged" from the addresses of Grand Commanders and other eloquent Knights Templar, and makes the writer of the report a mere compiler without claim to distinct authorship.

This it is for which we cry "*peccavimus*," and this error of procrastination has robbed us of the pleasure of submitting a report upon which we could look with some complacency as satisfactory to ourselves—very small and trivial in comparison with many others, but still the best we can do.

"I know not what course others may pursue, but as for me, give me" ample time for such report or I will write no more—in the language of Patrick Henry "a little scratched."

Our Grand Recorder has sent to us from time to time the printed transactions of the several American Grand Commanderies, and it is not his fault, but our own, that work has been delayed upon the report until now we can only gallop hastily along the line and must fail to give careful inspection, commending merit and criticising practices which may be in derogation of discipline and good soldiery.

As to the function of criticism we still hold views somewhat at variance with the opinion of many of the writers of Reports on Correspondence. We write for the information of the Knights Templar in West Virginia and to give a synopsis of Templar transactions in the several Grand Commanderies. It is of no interest to the average Knight Templar here to know that some correspondent thinks another correspondent in error and has vanquished him in skillful debate; or that the comments of A upon the report of B criticising the position of C upon the report of D published three or four years ago, presents a good example of logical fencing and rhetorical defense. This may be, and is, very interesting reading to the men who writes the reports, but Tommy Adkins takes no stock in it whatever.

"That labour we delight in physics pain." We have been both delighted and taught during our reading of the proceedings that have come to our hands, but the fact that thickly crowding duties have compelled the postponement of the discharge of this until haste is now the word, has not medicined us to the preparation of a quite satisfactory report.

His review of Mississippi is fraternal and pleasant. He speaks of Bro. Power as the "venerable Grand Recorder!" Gives this scribe a dig in the ribs anent the "Devotional Offices," which does not hurt a bit. Here it is: "Then this really did happen in Mississippi; in Natchez, the home of Sir Geo. DeLap; in the Methodist church, the place where Sir George is accustomed to worship. How could they so thrust the iron into Sir George's Knightly soul!"

We clip this as being news, to you, possibly, although not to us:

Sir George DeLap's report in 1893, was one of his best, and that means a great deal. There are many very good things in it very well said. We do not agree with him in his views upon the subject of "uniformed piety," but we do agree with him upon many other topics, and we trust he may long be spared to stir up the dry bones of the Guild of Correspondents.

He closes an exceedingly good report as follows:

Here ends the review. The examination we have made of the proceedings of the several American Grand Commanderies, has been hasty, but those who have followed along the line can only know how much labor has been bestowed upon it. We reach the end with a confused memory of nodding plumes and flashing swords, and the blare of trumpets "and the stir of jeweled bridle and of golden spur."

But amid all this martial display and pomp of parade, there is discernable, the steady beat of the great Masonic heart, the rhythm of an honest effort of the Knights Templar to do good, to relieve the destitute, and to advance true Christianity. There can be no doubt about it; the Orders of Masonic Knighthood, are factors for good, and in their own peculiar sphere, are accomplishing a noble work. Little by little, more and more, the precepts of the Great Teacher are permeating the minds of men and blossoming in their opinion and finding fruition in their lives, and every year Masonic Knighthood is becoming a greater power in the great work of re-building in the human soul the Temple of the Lord.

R. E. Sir W. W. Van Winkle is Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent, continued.

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#### WYOMING--1894.

Seventh Annual at Cheyenne, May 9th. R. E. Sir Jno. K. Jeffrey,

Grand Commander: Sir Adrian J. Parshall, Grand Recorder. Four Sub-ordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is a simple resume of his administration. He reports peace and harmony at home and abroad, as prevailing, and the Order in good condition. He issued one dispensation for a new Commandery, to be known as "Albert Pike," No. 4, and stationed at Green River.

He made but one decision, and that one was in accord with the law, as it stands.

His visitations were quite general. Of the new Ritual he says, "it is used exclusively." In Necrology he makes the following suggestions, which we consider wise and timely:

I would suggest that the provisions of the law with reference to standing committees, be so amended as to provide for the appointment of a committee on necrology: it should further provide that when a death occurs in any Commandery, it shall be the duty of the Eminent Commander to procure the Masonic record of the deceased frater, together with such other information as may be deemed important, and forward the same at once to the Grand Recorder, or to the chairman of the committee: the law should specify whether this requirement shall apply to all members or only to officers and members of this Grand Commandery.

The report presented annually by such a committee, will be an important feature of our records, bringing to our memories recollections of our departed fraters, and perpetuating their names upon the pages of the history of this Grand Commandery.

Proceedings local. Total membership, 221.

Bro. Jno. C. Baird is the author of a short report on correspondence, briefly reviewing the doings of most of the Templar family. Mississippi for 1893 gets nearly a page, and this committee a lecture on propriety, which we consider presumptuous as well as impertinent. He guesses that we are "one of those monstrously proper fellows, who can't keep his sword from tangling with his legs, and who looks as graceful in a uniform as a dunghill fowl in peacock's feathers."

What do you think of that, you people that know how "monstrously proper" this writer is? We are free to admit that we look like a fool and feel like one in uniform, but we are glad to know that the "looks" and "feeling" are all there is of it in our case, while Bro. Baird feels perfectly natural. We are not an admirer nor an imitator of "Sam Jones," but we will wager a pint of pindars that Sam has forgotten more in the last five minutes than Baird ever knew.

Sir William Daley is Grand Commander: Sir J. C. Baird is Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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## CONCLUSION.

And now our work, for the current year, is done. That there are imperfections in it, it is true: that it is the best we could do under the circumstances, is equally so. We are glad to report universal peace, concord, prosperity and a steady growth, both in membership and the graces

that should adorn the soldiers of the Cross of Christ. The new ritual seems to have come into general use and, strange to say, has produced a minimum of kicks. Our good brother Enoch has not put in an appearance yet, for the current year, but he may bob up serenely before we start for West Point, in which event he shall have the attention his distinguished ability and worth as a Templar and a man, merit at our hands. There are others which have failed to respond to roll call and whose absence we regret. The fault, however, is not with us.

Death has removed some of the brightest and best, during the year, and it won't be long until the place that knows us will know us no more. May the Master keep us always ready for the final summons.

Our good Brother Wheeler, of Connecticut, has exchanged the sorrows of earth for the glories and delights of the heavenly land. His family and Masonry have our sincere sympathy. Both are sadly bereaved. Peace to his ashes.

There are many others, but Bro. Wheeler was dear to us, and while regretting and sorrowing for their loss, we could not abstain from this special tribute to his memory and loving worth. May we all meet him and them in that Better Land.

Praying earnestly that Heaven's choicest blessings may rest upon each and all of you and upon all Templars, wherever dispersed, and upon the Order universal, I beg to remain, dear Sir Knights and brethren,

Courteously yours,

E. G. DELAP. Committee.

## ADDRESS OF GRAND RECORDERS.

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Alabama.....	WM. B. PHILLIPS.....	Birmingham.
Arizona.....	GEO. J. RUSKRUGE.....	Tucson.
Arkansas.....	JAS. A. HENRY.....	Little Rock.
California.....	THOS. H. CASWELL.....	San Francisco.
Canada, Sov. Great Priory.....	DAVID SPRY.....	London.
Colorado.....	ED. C. PARMELEE.....	Denver.
Connecticut.....	ELI C. BIRDSEY.....	Hartford.
England and Wales.....	JOHN C. HAY.....	London, W. C.
Georgia.....	SAMUEL P. HAMILTON.....	Savannah.
Illinois.....	GILBERT W. BARNARD.....	Chicago.
Indiana.....	WM. H. SMYTHE.....	Indianapolis.
Iowa.....	ALF. WINGATE.....	Des Moines.
Ireland.....	JOHN A. BAKER.....	Dublin.
Kansas.....	A. M. CALLAHAM.....	Topeka.
Kentucky.....	LORENZO D. CRONINGER.....	Covington.
Louisiana.....	RICHARD LAMBERT.....	New Orleans.
Maine.....	STEPHEN BERRY.....	Portland.
Maryland.....	JOHN H. MILLER.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts & Rhode Island.....	BENJ. W. ROWELL.....	Lynn.
Michigan.....	JOHN A. GEROW.....	Detroit.
Minnesota.....	THOS. MONTGOMERY.....	St. Paul.
Mississippi.....	J. L. POWER.....	Jackson.
Missouri.....	WM. H. MAYO.....	St. Louis.
Montana.....	CORNELIUS HEDGES.....	Helena.
Nebraska.....	WM. R. BOWEN.....	Omaha.
New Hampshire.....	GEO. P. CLEAVES.....	Concord.
New Jersey.....	CHAS. BECHTEL.....	Trenton.
New York.....	JOHN F. SHAFER.....	Albany.
North Dakota.....	FRANK J. THOMPSON.....	Fargo.
North Carolina.....	HORACE H. MUNSON.....	Wilmington.
Ohio.....	JOHN N. BELL.....	Dayton.
Oregon.....	JAS. F. ROBINSON.....	Eugene.
Pennsylvania.....	MONT H. SMITH.....	Philadelphia.
Prince Edward Island.....	B. WILSON HIGGS.....	Charlottetown.
Scotland.....	LINDSEY MCKERSEY.....	Edinburg.
South Dakota.....	W. H. HOLT.....	Sioux Falls.
Tennessee.....	WILBUR F. FOSTER.....	Nashville.
Texas.....	ROBERT BREWSTER.....	Houston.
Vermont.....	WARREN G. REYNOLDS.....	Burlington.
Victoria, Great Priory.....	CHARLES CHAPMAN.....	Melbourne, Aus.
Virginia.....	WM. B. ISAACS.....	Richmond.
Washington.....	YANCEY C. BLALOCK.....	Walla Walla.
Wyoming.....	JOHN C. BAIRD.....	Cheyenne.
West Virginia.....	R. C. DUNNINGTON.....	Fairmount.
Wisconsin.....	JOHN W. LAFLIN.....	Milwaukee.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT—R. E. Sir Hugh McCurdy, Grand Master, Corunna, Michigan; William B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder, Richmond, Va.  
Next Triennial Grand Conclave, at Boston, August 27, 1895.



# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMISSIONED TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

<i>Grand Commandery.</i>	<i>Representative—Postoffice.</i>	<i>Date of Commission.</i>
Alabama .....	Rev. N. G. Augustus, Crawford.....	March 16, 1893.
Arkansas .....	Rev. Wm. P. Browne .....	January 15, 1890.
California .....	Phineas M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo..	March 27, 1890.
Colorado .....	T. G. Birchett, M. D. Vicksburg...	January 24, 1890.
Connecticut .....	John A. Dicks, Natchez.....	Dec. , 1892.
Georgia .....	J. C. French, P.G.C., Natchez.....	Dec. 7, 1892.
Illinois .....	Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Vicksburg	January 22, 1890.
Indiana .....	Frank H. Foote, Port Gibson.....	
Iowa .....	Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg..	Dec. 31, 1889.
Kansas .....	Wm. G. Benbrook, P.G.C., Natchez	January 15, 1890.
Kentucky .....	John H. Gordon, P.G.C., Port Gibson	January 1, 1890.
Louisiana .....	E. Geo. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez.....	1892.
Maine .....	C. L. Lincoln, Columbus.....	April 12, 1893.
Maryland .....		
Massachusetts and		
Rhode Island...	B. A. Vaughan, P.G.C., Columbus...	January 15, 1890.
Minnesota .....	H. M. Romberger, P.G.C., Winona..	April 21, 1893.
Missouri .....	J. L. Power, Jackson.....	February 4, 1890.
Montana .....		
Nebraska .....	Emmet N. Thomas, Greenville .....	April 12, 1894.
New Hampshire...	Gid. W. Cox, P.G.C., Columbus.....	
New Jersey .....	N. S. Walker, P.G.C., Port Gibson..	January 6, 1889.
New York .....	Enoch Geo. DeLap, Natchez.....	January 15, 1890.
North Carolina .....		
North Dakota .....	John D. Miles, Vicksburg .....	
Ohio .....	Rev. John A. B. Jones, Canton.....	April 10, 1893.
Oregon .....		
Pennsylvania .....	Chas. T. Chamberlain, Natchez .....	March 14, 1893.
South Dakota .....	Wm. G. Sykes, Aberdeen .....	May 13, 1893.
Tennessee .....	Wm. Starling, Greenville .....	January 21, 1890.
Texas .....	G. J. Bahin, Natchez.....	January 24, 1891.
Vermont .....	J. J. Hayes, P.G.C., Vicksburg.....	October 1, 1892.
Virginia .....	Martin Marshall, Vicksburg.....	January 9, 1890.
Washington .....		
West Virginia .....	W. A. Bodenhamer, P.G.C., Okolona	January 1, 1890.
Wisconsin .....	John A. Dicks, Natchez.....	
Wyoming .....		

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

COMMISSIONED BY THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

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Alabama .....	Peter, Zingster, Birmingham .....	January 18, 1893.
Arkansas .....	George P. Taylor, Forest City .....	January 18, 1890.
California .....	Thos. H. Caswell, San Francisco .....	Dec. 23, 1890.
Colorado .....	Alfonso A. Burnard, Leadville .....	January 2, 1890.
Connecticut.....	Eli C. Birdsey, Meriden .....	Nov. 28, 1891.
Georgia .....	Felix Corput, Macon .....	Nov. 28, 1892.
Illinois .....	James C. Hawley, Dixon .....	Dec. 23, 1892.
Indiana .....	John W. Corput, Terre Haute .....	Nov. 28, 1889.
Iowa .....	James Morton, Cedar Rapids .....	Nov. 28, 1892.
Kansas .....	John M. Price, Atchison .....	January 18, 1890.
Kentucky .....	Reginald Heber Thompson, Louisville .....	June 18, 1892.
Louisiana .....	Joseph H. DeGrange, New Orleans .....	
Maine .....	J. H. Drummond, Portland .....	Dec. 23, 1889.
Maryland.....	Geo. Cook, Baltimore .....	April 9, 1891.
Massachusetts and Rhode Island .....	Benjamin Rowell, Lynn .....	Dec. 16, 1892.
Minnesota .....	Charles H. Mox, Crookston .....	June 28, 1893.
Missouri.....	Rev. Alex. M. Dockery, St. Louis .....	February 5, 1890.
Montana.....	E. D. Aiken, Butte City .....	July 10, 1891.
Nebraska.....	Samuel W. Hays, Norfolk .....	January 24, 1890.
New Hampshire.....	Rev. Daniel C. Roberts, Concord .....	August 10, 1891.
New Jersey.....	Thomas Godson, Newark .....	Dec. 23, 1889.
New York.....	John Anderson, Binghamton .....	March 25, 1892.
North Carolina.....	J. W. Hunter, Winston .....	Dec. 20, 1889.
North Dakota.....	James A. Jenks, Grand Forks .....	June 8, 1891.
Ohio .....	William L. Beuchner, Youngstown .....	March 11, 1893.
Oregon .....		
Pennsylvania.....	James H. Coddington, Towanda .....	July 10, 1891.
South Dakota.....	Levi B. French, Yankton .....	May 8, 1893.
Tennessee .....	Morton B. Howell, Nashville .....	January 21, 1890.
Texas.....	George Hotchkiss, Dallas .....	
Vermont .....	George W. Squier, Swanton .....	January 18, 1889.
Virginia.....	John T. Parham, Petersburg .....	August 5, 1889.
Washington.....	Walter J. Thompson, Tacoma .....	May 24, 1889.
West Virginia.....	Thomas M. Darrah, Wheeling .....	Nov. 26, 1892.
Wisconsin.....	N. C. Giffin, Fond du Lac .....	
Wyoming .....	John C. Davis, Rawlins .....	April 5, 1893.

# GRAND COMMANDERS,

FROM ORGANIZATION 1857 TO 1895.

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WILLIAM H. STEVENS.....	1857 to 1858—Died October 13, 1866.
GEORGE P. CRUMP.....	1858 to 1859—Died 1860.
GILES M. HILLYER.....	1859 to 1860—Died April 23, 1871.
HARVEY W. WALTER.....	1860 to 1861—Died Sept. 19, 1878.
BENJ. S. TAPPAN.....	1861 to 1866—Died March 1, 1866.
EDWARD LEA.....	1866 to 1867—Died 1878.
CHRISTOPHER A. MANLOVE.....	1867 to 1868—Died Dec. 29, 1878.
FLEET C. MERCER.....	1869 to 1870—Died January 26, 1885.
JOHN K. FULSON, Water Valley.....	1869 to 1870
CHARLES T. BOND.....	1870 to 1871—Died Dec. 14, 1872.
WILLIAM S. PATTON.....	1871 to 1872—Died July 5, 1889.
E. GEO. DELAP, Natchez.....	1872 to 1873
E. T. HENRY.....	1873 to 1874—Died April 10, 1881.
PHINEAS M. SAVERY, Tupelo.....	1874 to 1875
GID W. COX, Columbus.....	1875 to 1876
OLIVER CLIFTON, Jackson.....	1876 to 1877
WILLIAM A. FAIRCHILD.....	1877 to 1878—Died Sept. 20, 1878.
WILLIAM G. PAXTON, Vicksburg.....	1878 to 1879
CHARLES M. ERWIN.....	1879 to 1880
WILLIAM G. BENBROOK, Natchez.....	1880 to 1882
WILLIAM FRENCH.....	1881 to 1882—Died April 28, 1884.
JAS. T. MEADE, Birmingham, Ala.....	1882 to 1883
H. M. ROMBERGER, Winona.....	1883 to 1884
W. P. TOWLER.....	1884 to 1885—Died March 30, 1893
JOHN G. GORDON, Port Gibson.....	1885 to 1886
B. A. VAUGHAN, M. D., Columbus.....	1886 to 1887
N. S. WALKER, Port Gibson.....	1887 to 1888
FREDERIC SPEED, Vicksburg.....	1888 to 1890
JAS. J. HAYES, Vicksburg.....	1890 to 1891
J. E. LEIGH.....	1891 to 1892—Died Nov. 7, 1891.
W. A. BODENHAMER, Okolona.....	1892 to 1893
S. W. FERGUSON, Greenville.....	1893 to 1894
J. C. FRENCH, Natchez.....	1894 to 1895
F. P. JINKINS, Aberdeen.....	1895

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## HONORARY PAST GRAND COMMANDERS.

J. L. POWER. P.E.C.....	Mississippi, No. 1—elected 1891
JOHN D. MILES. P.E.C.....	Magnolia, No. 2—elected 1829

### FEES FOR THE ORDERS.

Shall not be less than forty dollars, but each Commandery may charge a higher sum. Fees cannot be remitted, directly nor indirectly. Recorder is responsible for their payment.

### ANNUAL DUES.

Amount is fixed by each Commandery, payable on or before stated Conclave in December. Two years' indebtedness forfeits membership, and the member can only be reinstated by paying up all arrearages; but "Commandery may excuse the payment of dues under peculiar circumstances."

### DUES TO GRAND COMMANDERY.

One dollar for each member on the roll December 27. Five dollars for each member Knighted during year. One dollar for each member reinstated for the number of years Commandery requires him to pay arrearages.

### JURISDICTION OF COMMANDERIES.

Section 3, General Regulations, relating to the jurisdiction of Commanderies over applicants for the Orders, was repealed in 1886, *vide* page 12, proceedings, and all restrictions upon jurisdiction over candidates in the State of Mississippi "abolished." It is entirely competent for a Commandery in the extreme southern limits of the State to entertain a petition from a candidate residing in the most northern; in other words, applicants may go where they please for the Orders, so long as they do not go outside of the State.

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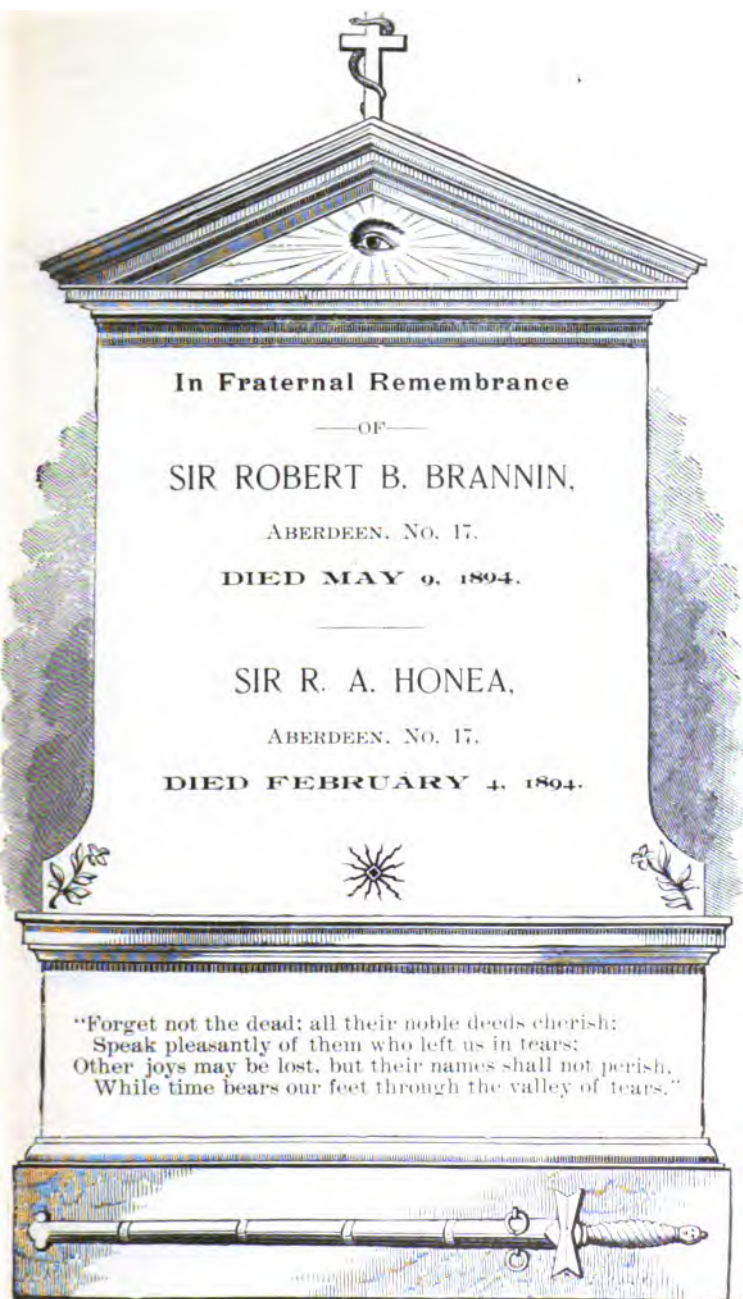
LODGES—(A. F. and A. M.) hold Communications. Add 4,000 to 1895—A. L. L. (*Anno Lucis*—Year of Light) 5895.

CHAPTERS—(R. A. M.) hold Conventions. Add 530 to 1895—A. L. I. L. (*Anno Inventionis*—Year of Discovery) 2425.

COUNCILS—(R. & S. M.) hold Assemblies. Add 1000 to 1895—A. L. Dep. L. (*Anno Dispositionis*—Year of Deposit) 2895.

COMMANDERIES—(K. T.) hold Conclaves. Subtract 1118 from 1895. A. L. O. L. (*Anno Oráinis*—Year of the Order) 777.

CONISTORIES—(A. and A. S. R.) hold Rendezvous. Add 3760 to 1895.—A. L. M. L. 5655.



**In Fraternal Remembrance**

—OF—

**SIR ROBERT B. BRANNIN,**

ABERDEEN, NO. 17.

**DIED MAY 9, 1894.**

**SIR R. A. HONEA,**

ABERDEEN, NO. 17.

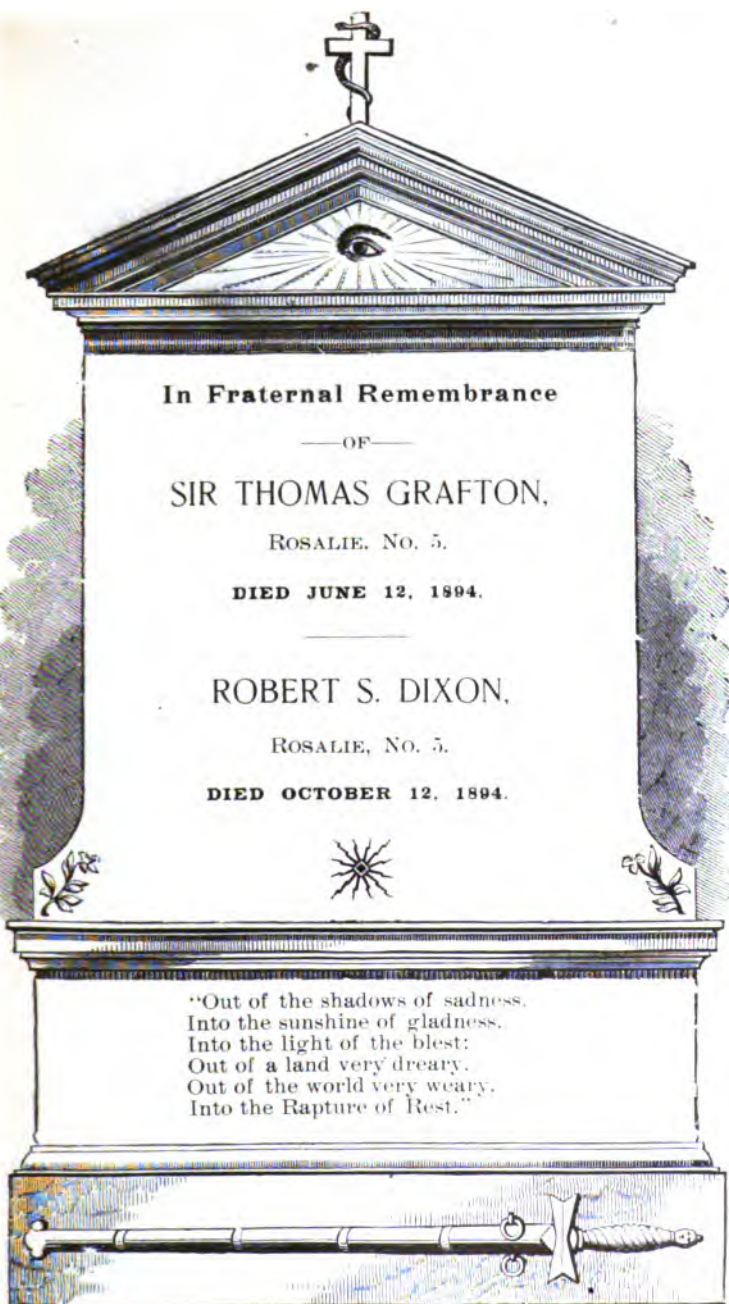
**DIED FEBRUARY 4, 1894.**



"Forget not the dead; all their noble deeds cherish;  
Speak pleasantly of them who left us in tears;  
Other joys may be lost, but their names shall not perish,  
While time bears our feet through the valley of tears."







**In Fraternal Remembrance**

—OF—

**SIR THOMAS GRAFTON,**

ROSALIE, No. 5.

**DIED JUNE 12, 1894.**

**ROBERT S. DIXON,**

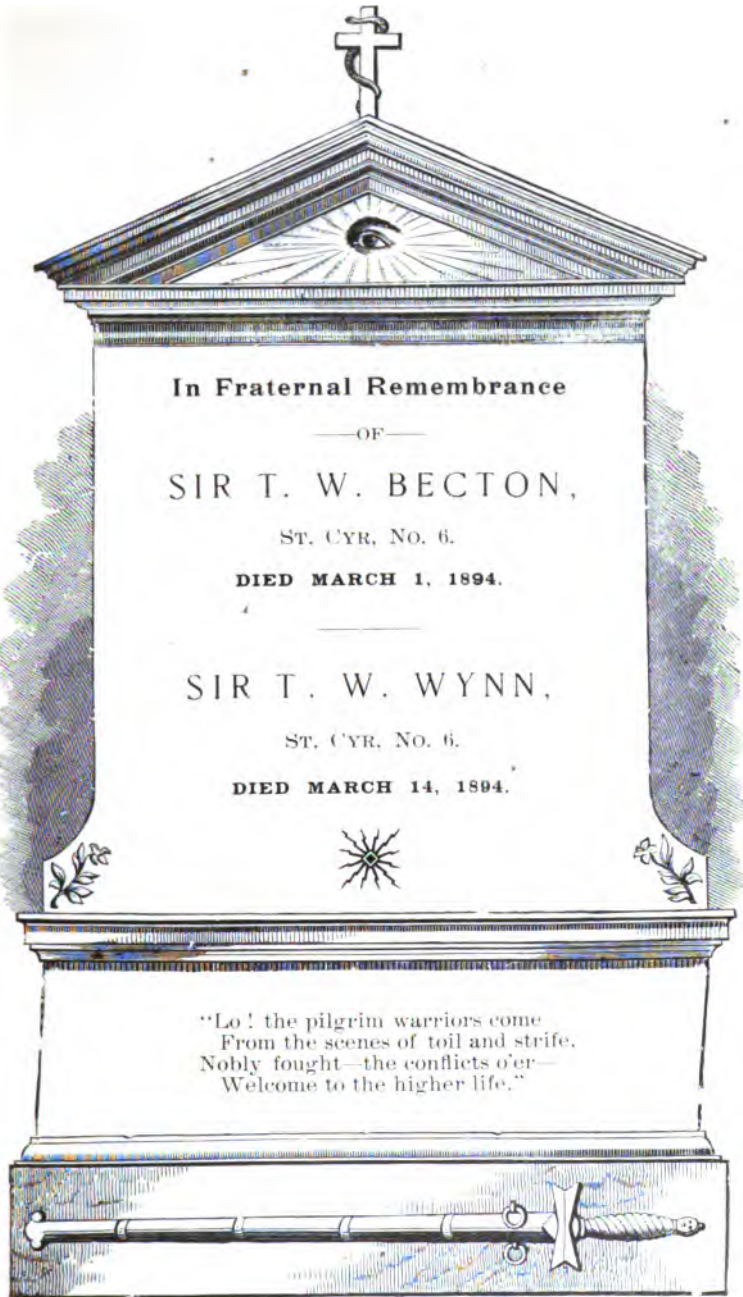
ROSALIE, No. 5.

**DIED OCTOBER 12, 1894.**

“Out of the shadows of sadness,  
Into the sunshine of gladness,  
Into the light of the blest;  
Out of a land very dreary,  
Out of the world very weary,  
Into the Rapture of Rest.”







In Fraternal Remembrance

—OF—

SIR T. W. BECTON,

ST. CYR, NO. 6.

DIED MARCH 1, 1894.

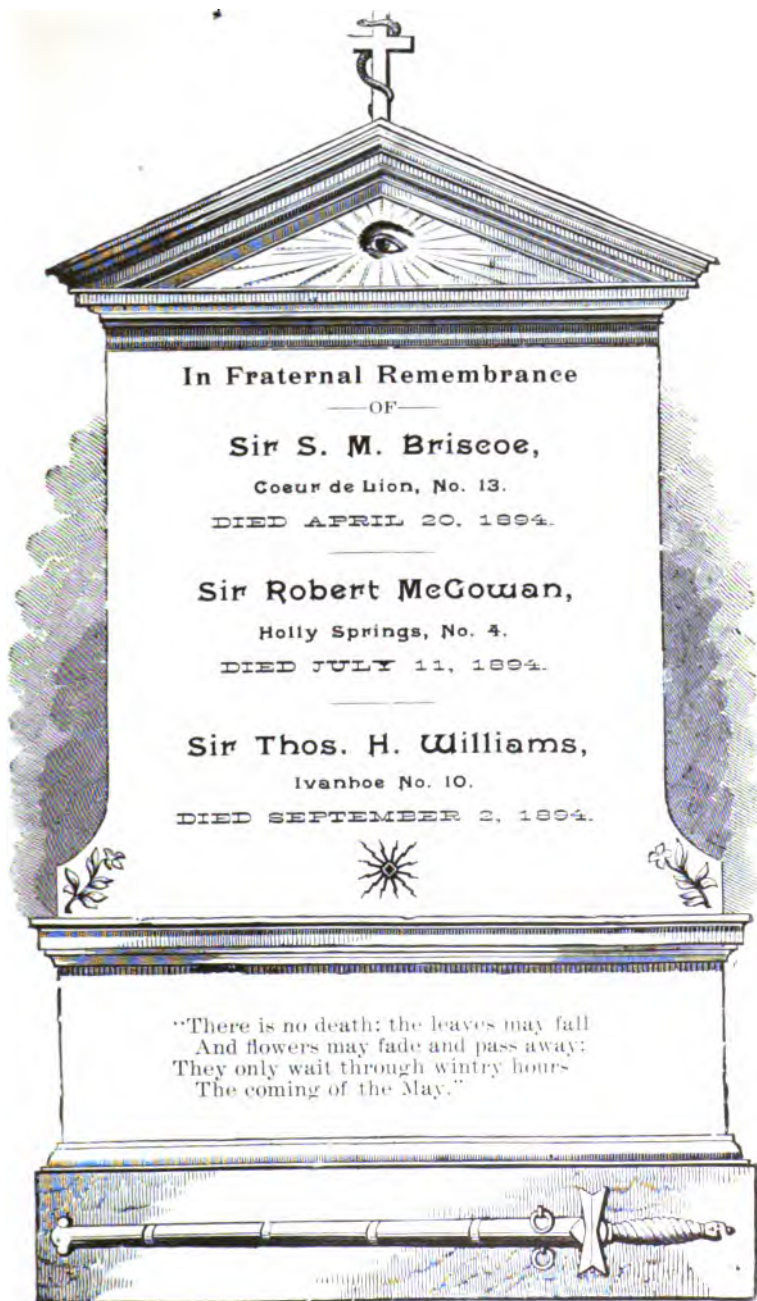
SIR T. W. WYNN,

ST. CYR, NO. 6.

DIED MARCH 14, 1894.

"Lo! the pilgrim warriors come  
From the scenes of toil and strife,  
Nobly fought—the conflicts o'er—  
Welcome to the higher life."





## ADDRESS OF GRAND RECORDERS.

---

Alabama.....	WM. B. PHILLIPS.....	Birmingham.
Arizona.....	GEO. J. RUSKRUGE.....	Tucson.
Arkansas.....	JAS. A. HENRY.....	Little Rock.
California.....	THOS. H. CASWELL.....	San Francisco.
Canada. Sov. Great Priory.....	DAVID SPRY.....	London.
Colorado.....	ED. C. PARMELEE.....	Denver.
Connecticut.....	ELI C. BIRDSEY.....	Hartford.
England and Wales.....	JOHN C. HAY.....	London, W. C.
Georgia.....	SAMUEL P. HAMILTON.....	Savannah.
Illinois.....	GILBERT W. BARNARD.....	Chicago.
Indiana.....	WM. H. SMYTHE.....	Indianapolis.
Iowa.....	ALF. WINGATE.....	Des Moines.
Ireland.....	JOHN A. BAKER.....	Dublin.
Kansas.....	A. M. CALLAHAM.....	Topeka.
Kentucky.....	LORENZO D. CRONINGER.....	Covington.
Louisiana.....	RICHARD LAMBERT.....	New Orleans.
Maine.....	STEPHEN BERRY.....	Portland.
Maryland.....	JOHN H. MILLER.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts & Rhode Island.....	BENJ. W. ROWELL.....	Lynn.
Michigan.....	JOHN A. GEROW.....	Detroit.
Minnesota.....	THOS. MONTGOMERY.....	St. Paul.
Mississippi.....	J. L. POWER.....	Jackson.
Missouri.....	WM. H. MAYO.....	St. Louis.
Montana.....	CORNELIUS HEDGES.....	Helena.
Nebraska.....	WM. R. BOWEN.....	Omaha.
New Hampshire.....	GEO. P. CLEAVES.....	Concord.
New Jersey.....	CHAS. BECHTEL.....	Trenton.
New York.....	JOHN F. SHAFER.....	Albany.
North Dakota.....	FRANK J. THOMPSON.....	Fargo.
North Carolina.....	HORACE H. MUNSON.....	Wilmington.
Ohio.....	JOHN N. BELL.....	Dayton.
Oregon.....	JAS. F. ROBINSON.....	Eugene.
Pennsylvania.....	MONT H. SMITH.....	Philadelphia.
Prince Edward Island.....	B. WILSON HIGGS.....	Charlottetown.
Scotland.....	LINDSEY MCKERSEY.....	Edinburg.
South Dakota.....	W. H. HOLT.....	Sioux Falls.
Tennessee.....	WILBUR F. FOSTER.....	Nashville.
Texas.....	ROBERT BREWSTER.....	Houston.
Vermont.....	WARREN G. REYNOLDS.....	Burlington.
Victoria, Great Priory.....	CHARLES CHAPMAN.....	Melbourne, Aus.
Virginia.....	WM. B. ISAACS.....	Richmond.
Washington.....	YANCEY C. BLALOCK.....	Walla Walla.
Wyoming.....	JOHN C. BAIRD.....	Cheyenne.
West Virginia.....	R. C. DUNNINGTON.....	Fairmount.
Wisconsin.....	JOHN W. LAFLIN.....	Milwaukee.

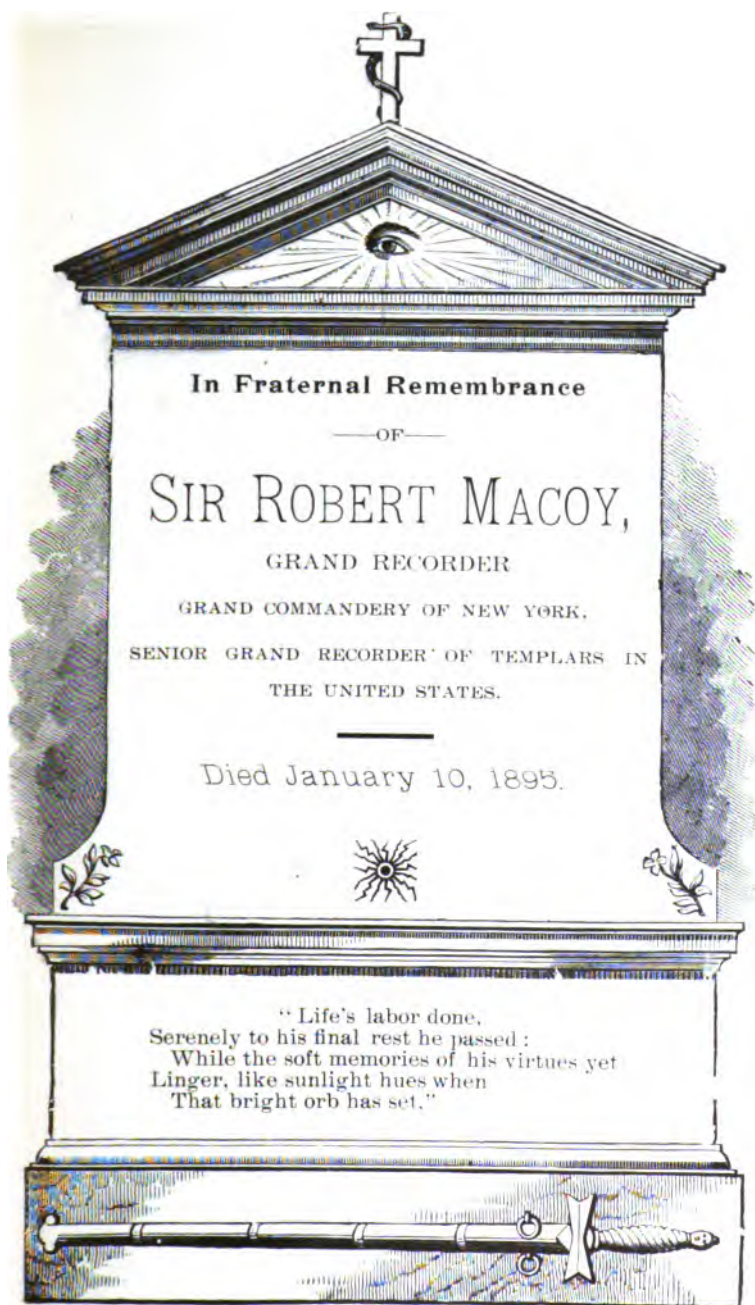
GRAND ENCAMPMENT - R. E.: Sir Hugh McCurdy, Grand Master, Corunna, Michigan; William B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder, Richmond, Va.  
 Next Triennial Grand Conclave, at Boston, August 27, 1895.

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMISSIONED TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

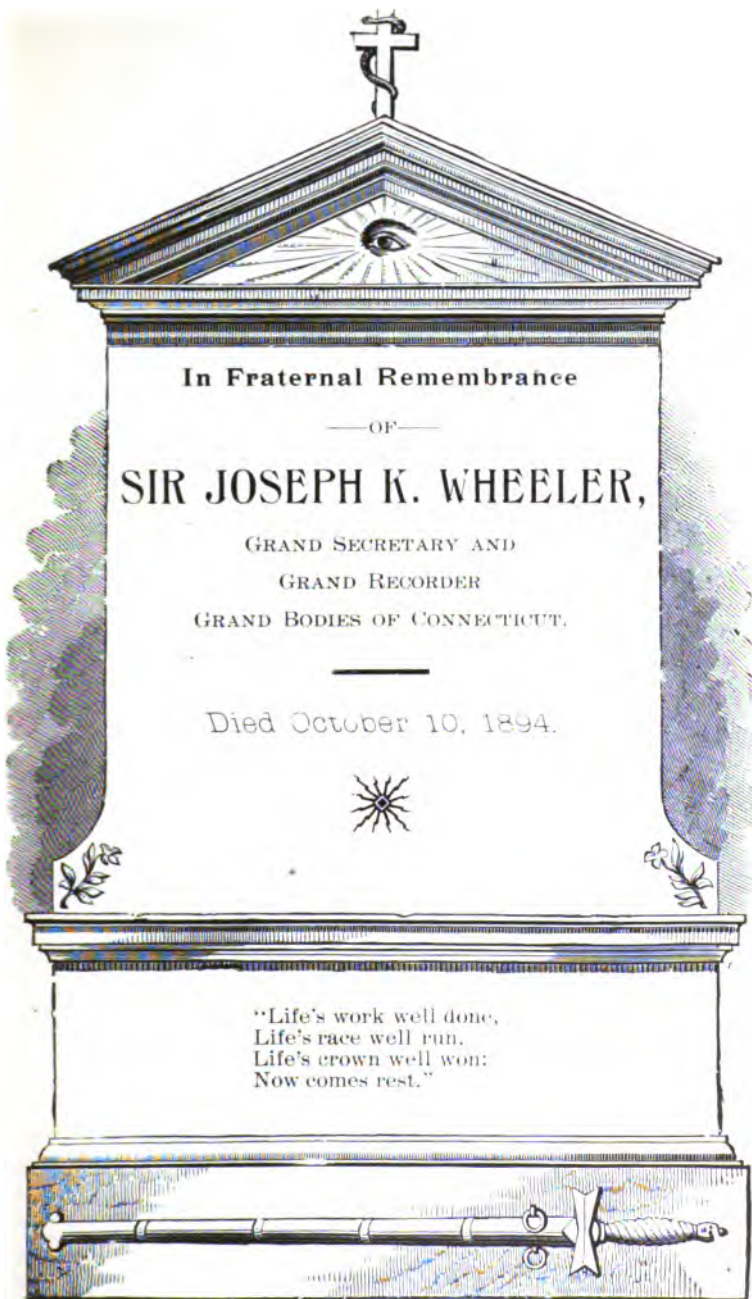
<i>Grand Commandery.</i>	<i>Representative—Postoffice.</i>	<i>Date of Commission.</i>
Alabama .....	Rev. N. G. Augustus, Crawford.....	March 16, 1893.
Arkansas .....	Rev. Wm. P. Browne .....	January 15, 1890.
California .....	Phineas M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.....	March 27, 1890.
Colorado .....	T. G. Birchett, M. D. Vicksburg.....	January 24, 1890.
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Kentucky .....	John H. Gordon, P.G.C., Port Gibson.....	January 1, 1890.
Louisiana .....	E. Geo. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez.....	1892.
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Maryland .....		
Massachusetts and Rhode Island.....	B. A. Vaughan, P.G.C., Columbus.....	January 15, 1890.
Minnesota .....	H. M. Romberger, P.G.C. Winona.....	April 21, 1893.
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Montana .....		
Nebraska .....	Emmet N. Thomas, Greenville .....	April 12, 1894.
New Hampshire.....	Gid. W. Cox, P.G.C., Columbus.....	
New Jersey.....	N. S. Walker, P.G.C., Port Gibson.....	January 6, 1889.
New York.....	Enoch Geo. DeLap, Natchez.....	January 15, 1890.
North Carolina.....		
North Dakota.....	John D. Miles, Vicksburg .....	
Ohio .....	Rev. John A. B. Jones, Canton.....	April 10, 1893.
Oregon .....		
Pennsylvania.....	Chas. T. Chamberlain, Natchez .....	March 14, 1893.
South Dakota.....	Wm. G. Sykes, Aberdeen .....	May 13, 1893.
Tennessee.....	Wm. Starling, Greenville .....	January 21, 1890.
Texas .....	G. J. Bahin, Natchez.....	January 24, 1891.
Vermont .....	J. J. Hayes, P.G.C., Vicksburg.....	October 1, 1892.
Virginia.....	Martin Marshall, Vicksburg .....	January 9, 1890.
Washington .....		
West Virginia.....	W. A. Bodenhamer, P.G.C., Okolona.....	January 1, 1890.
Wisconsin .....	John A. Dicks, Natchez.....	
Wyoming .....		











In Fraternal Remembrance

—OF—

SIR JOSEPH K. WHEELER,

GRAND SECRETARY AND

GRAND RECORDER

GRAND BODIES OF CONNECTICUT.

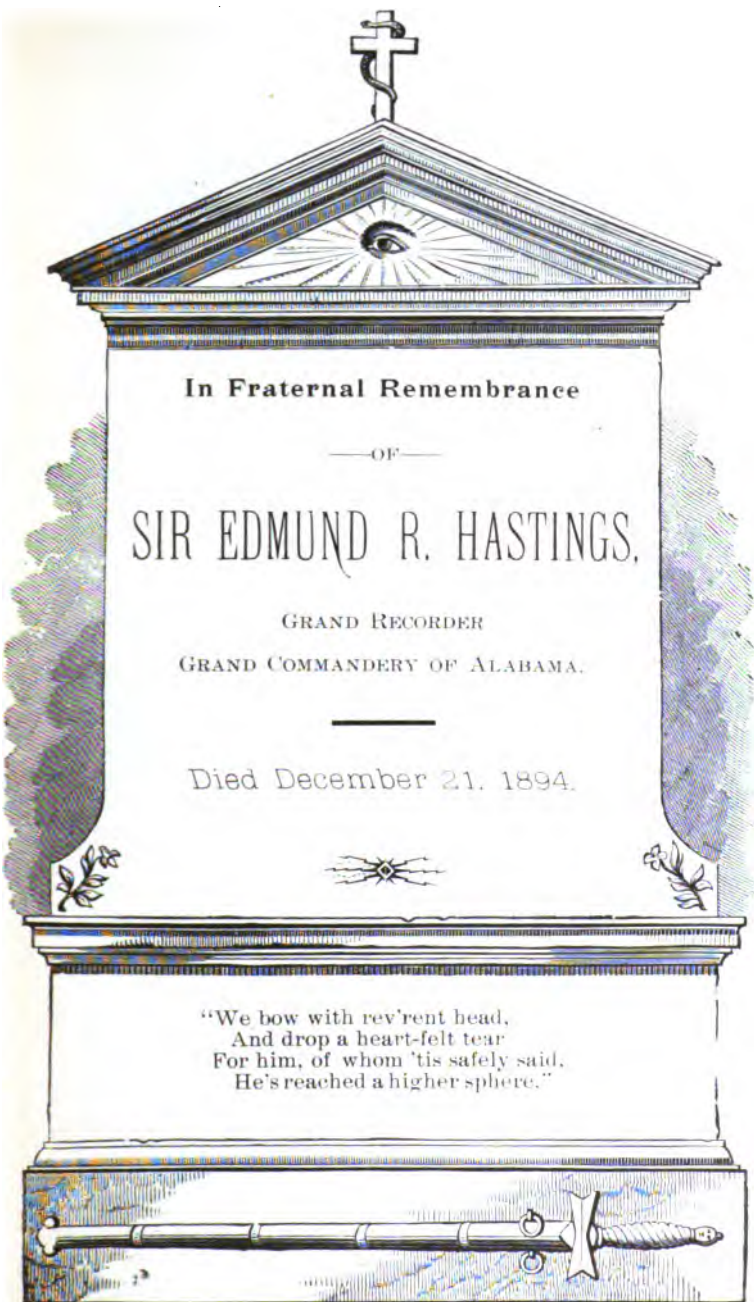
Died October 10, 1894.



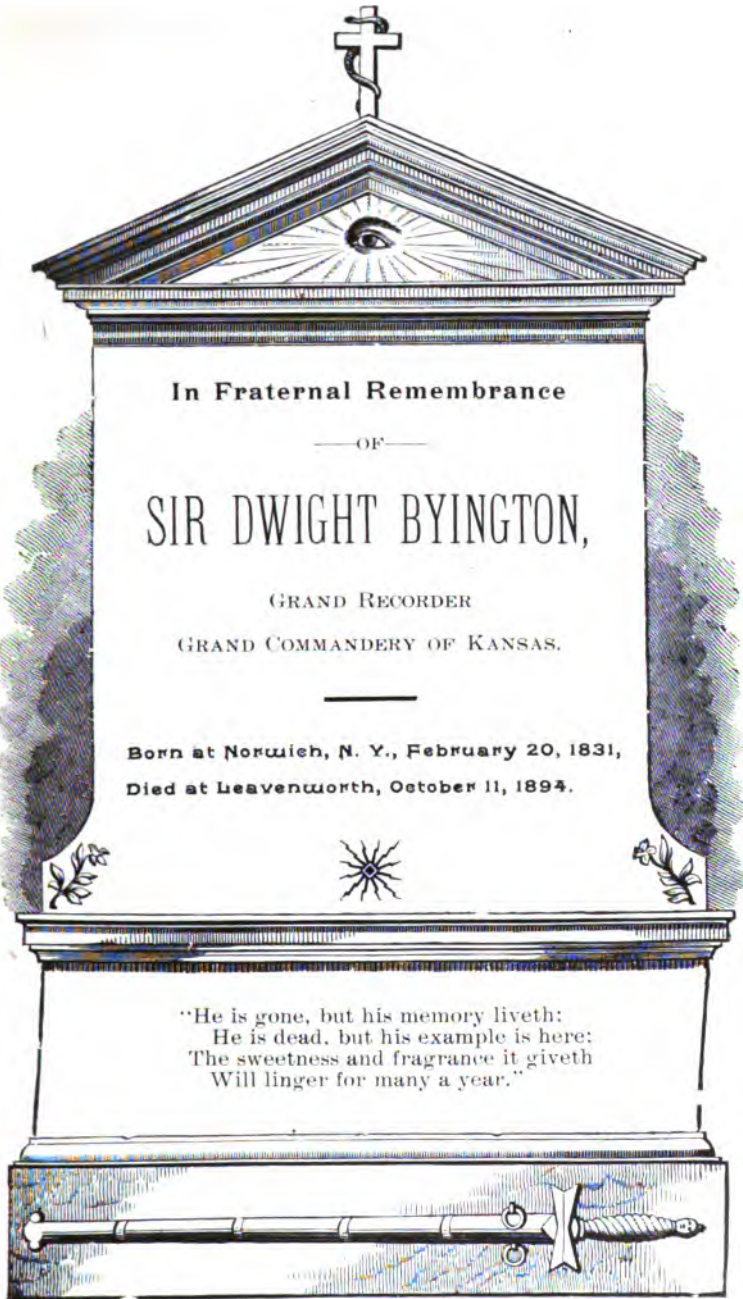
"Life's work well done,  
Life's race well run,  
Life's crown well won:  
Now comes rest."







1





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## The Distinguished Dead of Other Jurisdictions.

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BY FREDERIC SPEED.

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These annual reunions of ours are like the calling of the roll after a battle. Every soldier who passed through that trying ordeal remembers with what foreboding the names were repeated by the Orderly, and how we heard that this one, and that one, had fallen, and where such a one had received a mortal wound, and another had fallen into the hands of the enemy, and then came the reports from other companies and regiments; this friend, a relative, a near neighbor, or perhaps one whom we never liked before, had answered their last roll-call. We come up to this General Assembly of Masons once in each year, and call the roll of our own company and with bated breath listen for the names of those who are dear to us, bow our heads in sorrow for the many whose loss we mourn, and then we hear the tidings from the Craft, the other regiments of the Grand Army of Masonry, how, here a leader, and there a leader, whose services were pre-eminent and entitled him to distinction above his fellows, has fallen. Another great battle of life has been fought and again the roll has been called and there are many names which will be answered to no more forever: but they have not

"Died, like dull worms to rot,  
Thrust foully in the earth to be forgot."

for so long as the Masonic Craft itself shall endure, the dead of the past year will live as bright examples of long and faithful service, freely rendered in the great cause of brotherhood.

Our eldest sister and nearest neighbor, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, has contributed to the list of illustrious dead of the year two of her Past Grand Masters, whose names were household words to all reading Masons throughout the globe, two who reflected honor upon the long list of great men which she has given to Masonry, and whose loss is beyond repair.

### JOHN FRIZZELL AND GEORGE COOPER CONNOR

were, in the narrow sense, Tennesseans, but in the larger, they belonged to the Craft universal, for their labors and influence were not confined by any "pent-up Utica," and there was not a Lodge or body of Masons anywhere, but shared in the fruits of their labors. They each held the pen "of a ready writer," and their contributions were numerous and invaluable. There was so much that was

common with the two, that they may be said to have been lines parallel in Tennessee Freemasonry. They probably had more extensive acquaintance with Masons not only in Tennessee, but elsewhere, than any two men in the South, and there was that gentleness and courtesy of manner with them that wins the affections of men at sight. Dignified, and commanding in appearance, no man would have ever approached either with any but the feelings of the most profound respect, and yet there was that benignity of countenance which wins children's love and draws men as with hooks of steel. But, withal, they were not alike—the one calm, conservative, dispassionate, deliberate, and the other impulsive, impetuous and dashing. The writings of one read like those of Macaulay, and the other had all the brilliancy and wit of a Charles Lever.

JOHN FRIZZELL was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge for twenty-seven years. The Grand Master, in announcing his death, well said :

"No other man ever held an elective office in this Grand Lodge for so long a time. In many respects the office of Grand Secretary is the most important in the Grand Lodge, and has been, sometimes, the object of aspiration on the part of other worthy men. But Bro. Frizzell was so uniformly and genuinely courteous, kind and sympathetic, performed the duties of his office with such unrivaled excellence, and was, withal, so good a man, that he constantly grew in the confidence, esteem and affection of the brethren, and year after year they re-elected him—frequently by acclamation.

"But he was much more than Secretary. He was of such a mold that he could not be simply and only the recorder of other men's thoughts and deeds. He had ability, force of character and high purposes of his own. Drawn by circumstances, as well as by his love for the Order, to devote the most of his mature life to Freemasonry, he made himself a thorough master of its principles, laws, landmarks and ceremonies.

"While always conservative in action, never extravagant or passionate in his utterances, he always had decided, well matured and well defined views on all important Masonic subjects, and always presented them with great elegance, clearness and force. His judgment was sound; his reasoning clear and convincing; his manner sympathetic, sincere and impressive. In the Grand Lodge discussions in which he took part, it was a rare thing that he did not carry his point.

"Though always fully equipped and ready to maintain his opinions, he was not fond of mere display, never sought controversy, and did not take part in the discussions as often as his qualifications and fine abilities warranted. He spoke only on very important matters, or in response to special requests.

"Other eminent and able Masons warmed the hearts and influenced the minds of the brethren and stirred them up to action in important matters; but, by reason of the qualities hereinbefore mentioned, Brother Frizzell, more than any other one man, guided, directed and influenced that action and kept it, as near as possible, in accord with the Landmarks, Constitution and Edicts.



"His influence in this and many other ways has been invaluable to Freemasonry in Tennessee. He compiled, revised and prepared for use the Masonic Text Book of Tennessee—itsself being a lasting monument to his industry, learning and skill.

"In 1883, by order of the Grand Lodge, he prepared and published the Masonic Digest of Tennessee, and in 1889 prepared and published a second and revised edition of the same.

"At the time of his death, in addition to being Grand Secretary, he was a member of the committee to prepare a revised Code of the Constitution, Edicts and Decisions of the Grand Lodge, and was chairman of the Board of Custodians of the secret work of Masonry in Tennessee.

"It will not do to say that Masonry or any great cause is dependent alone upon any one man or any two men—for it is not true. But it is true that few causes have in so short a time suffered so severe and apparently irreparable a loss as has Masonry in Tennessee, within the last nine months, by the death of Past Grand Masters George C. Connor and John Frizzell."

A Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge and Grand Council, Past Grand High Priest and Grand Commander, he had also been General Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in the United States. A record so honorable that it needs but to be enumerated to easily mark him as the greatest of the many losses sustained by the Craft Universal during the year.

As the last page of our proceedings of last year were going to press, there came the sad message announcing Brother Connor's death and this writer added a few loving words of respect and esteem and they stand as a tribute, earnest and sincere, to his memory. To them there is only to be added that he was a Past Grand Master of Tennessee, writer of the Correspondence Report in Lodge, Chapter and Commandery, Chairman of the Committee to Codify the Edicts and Decisions of the Grand Lodge, Chairman of the Custodians of the Work and Lectures and many times Chairman of the Law Committee of the Grand Lodge, and a Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar and at the time of his death Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery and Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States. Another has said of him that "he filled every position to which he was called with eminent, often unequalled, ability. He was in constant demand in both the public and private ceremonies of Masonry. He has, through his writings and addresses, embellished and enriched the literature of the order, and made for himself a permanent and enviable place therein." As illustrating his kindly, genial nature, it is worth mentioning that for a number of years he published a newspaper called "Kind Words." And now that he is beyond the reach of all words of praise or censure, where the cloud is dispelled and the bright morning which comes after the night of death has dawned, let us think of him only in kind words, words such as he deserved.

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After a most extraordinary career of distinguished service, nearly half

a century of which was spent as Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of New York,

### ROBERT MACOY

died on the 9th day of January last. It is said of him that during all his time he never failed to attend a Conclave or to discharge the duties of his office. "Gentle as a child and tender-hearted as a woman, he bound all who came in contact with him by the strong ties of a lovable nature, and of him it can be said as of Sir John Chandos, 'He was a Knight *sans peur et sans reproche*.'" An author and compiler of several Masonic books and the originator and father of the ritual of the Eastern Star, his memory will never fail.

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All branches of Freemasonry in Connecticut met with an irreparable loss in the death of

### JOSEPH KELLOGG WHEELER.

Grand Secretary of all its Grand Bodies for twenty-three years, and of three of them for twenty-seven years, on the 10th day of October last. He was a rare example of fidelity to duty and of courtesy and affability in its discharge, and left a large retinue of warm and devoted friends, scattered all over the Union, and indeed, we may say, throughout the civilized world. A poet of no mean pretensions, he was an easy and graceful writer and had contributed much to enrich the pages of Masonic literature. One of the workers in the hive of Masonry, he served well his fellowmen and earned a good record—and will live long in many hearts.

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# GRAND OFFICERS,

1895-'96.

SIR F. P. JINKINS.....	Aberdeen.....	R.; E., Grand Commander.
SIR J. M. BUCHANAN.....	Meridian.....	V.; E. Dep Gr. Commander.
SIR JAS. T. HARRISON.....	Columbus.....	Grand Generalissimo.
SIR W. B. WALKER.....	Aberdeen.....	Grand Captain General.
REV. SIR T. W. LEWIS.....	Grenada.....	Grand Prelate
SIR WM. STARLING.....	Greenville.....	Grand Senior Warden.
SIR JOHN S. COBB.....	Verona.....	Grand Junior Warden.
SIR G. J. BAHIN.....	Natchez.....	Grand Treasurer
SIR J. L. POWER.....	Jackson.....	Grand Recorder.
SIR J. W. KEYES.....	Tupelo.....	Grand Standard Bearer,
SIR J. F. DIXON.....	Natchez.....	Grand Sword Bearer.
SIR GEO. C. HOSKINS.....	Brookhaven.....	Grand Warden.
SIR J. M. CAIN.....	Jackson.....	Grand Captain of the Guard.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

TEMPLAR LAW.—Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Vicksburg; Wm. G. Paxton, P. G. C., Vicksburg; P. M. Savery, P. G. C., Tupelo  
FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE.—E. Geo DeLap, P. G. C., Natchez.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR TRIENNIAL AT BOSTON.

SIR J. C. FRENCH, Chairman and Treasurer.	Rosalie No. 5, Natchez
SIR M. BELTZHOVER, Secretary.....	" " " "
SIR J. S. HAYES.....	Magnolia No. 2, Vicksburg.
SIR T. B. FRANKLIN.....	DeMolay No. 8, Columbus
SIR JAS. T. HARRISON.....	" " " "
SIR H. M. WADDELL.....	" " " "
SIR J. L. POWER.....	Mississippi No. 1, Jackson.
SIR W. G. SYKES.....	Aberdeen No. 17, Aberdeen.
SIR F. P. JINKINS.....	" " " "
SIR T. W. LEWIS.....	Honorary, Holly Springs No. 4.
SIR W. B. WALKER, Honorary.....	Aberdeen No. 17, Aberdeen.
SIR J. S. COBB,	".....Ivanhoe No. 10, Okolona.
SIR GEO. C. HOSKINS,	".....St. Elmo No. 18, Brookhaven.
SIR WM. STARLING,	".....Delta No. 16, Greenville.
SIR F. H. FOOTE,	".....Cœur de Lion No. 13, Port Gibson.
SIR C. C. COFFEE,	".....Cyrene No. 9, Meridian.
SIR J. L. SPINKS,	"....." " " "





**Thirty-Sixth**  
**Annual Conclave**



**1896.**

OCT 3 1900



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THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

—OF THE—

# GRAND COMMANDERY

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,

—OF THE—

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

—HELD AT—



JACKSON, FEBRUARY 12-14,

1896.



VICKSBURG, MISS.:  
VICKSBURG PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

1896.


 **THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE**   
Will be Held in Biloxi, on Tuesday, February 9th, 1897,  
commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M.

# GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

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## THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE.

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HE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI assembled in its Thirty-Sixth Annual Conclave in the Asylum of Mississippi Commandery No. 1, in the City of Jackson, on Tuesday, February 18, 1896, at 10 o'clock A. M.

### PRESENT :

SIR F. P. JINKINS..... R. E. Grand Commander.  
SIR J. M. BUCHANAN..... V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.  
SIR JAMES T. HARRISON..... Grand Generalissimo.  
SIR O. L. MCKAY..... as Grand Captain General.  
SIR JOHN A. B. JONES..... as Grand Prelate.  
SIR WM. STARLING..... Grand Senior Warden.  
SIR JOHN S. COBB..... Grand Junior Warden.  
SIR GUS J. BAHIN..... Grand Treasurer.  
SIR J. L. POWER..... Grand Recorder.  
SIR J. W. KEYES..... Grand Standard Bearer.  
SIR J. F. DIXON..... Grand Sword Bearer.  
SIR GEO. C. HOSKINS..... Grand Warder.  
SIR J. M. CAIN..... Grand Captain of the Guard.

ABSENT—Sir W. B. WALKER, Grand Captain General; Rev. Sir T. W. LEWIS, Grand Prelate.

### PAST GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

E. GEO. DELAP..... Past Grand Commander.  
PHINEAS M. SAVERY..... Past Grand Commander.  
WM. G. PAXTON..... Past Grand Commander.  
FREDERIC SPEED..... Past Grand Commander.  
B. A. VAUGHAN..... Past Grand Commander.  
N. G. AUGUSTUS..... Past Grand Prelate.

### GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

Grand Commandery of Alabama..... N. G. AUGUSTUS.  
Grand Commandery of California..... P. M. SAVERY, P. G. C.  
Grand Commandery of Illinois..... WM. G. PAXTON, P. G. C.

Grand Commandery of Iowa.....	FREDERIC SPEED, P. G. C.
Grand Commandery of Louisiana.....	E. G. DELAP, P. G. C.
Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island .....	B. A. VAUGHAN, P. G. C.
Grand Commandery of Missouri.....	J. L. POWER, P. G. C.
Grand Commandery of New York.....	E. G. DELAP, P. G. C.
Grand Commandery of Ohio.....	REV. JOHN A. B. JONES.
Grand Commandery of South Dakota ...	WILLIAM G. SYKES.
Grand Commandery of Tennessee.....	WILLIAM STARLING.

Also present, Past Eminent Commanders D. P. Porter, William J. Brown, Jr., Nolan Stewart, of Mississippi No. 1, the Representatives of eleven Commanderies, and a large number of visiting Knights.

The members of Standing Committees were present as follows:

TEMPLAR LAW—Sirs Frederic Speed, William G. Paxton, P. M. Savery.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—Sir E. G. DeLap.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced as the Committee on Credentials: Sirs J. H. Wright, A. A. Posey, G. C. Myers.

The Grand Commandery was opened in Ample and Knightly Form, and proceeded to the First Methodist Church, where the Offices of Devotion were observed. In the absence of Rev. Sir T. W. Lewis, Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir Irvin Miller delivered a most appropriate discourse—in substance the one prepared by the Grand Prelate, as follows:

TEXT: Math. 16th Chapter, 13th to 16th verses, inclusive: "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea, Phillippi, he asked his disciples saying, whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Right Eminent Commander, and Sir Knights of Mississippi, as Soldiers of the Cross and members of a grand organization, I take pleasure in congratulating you upon the prosperous condition of Templarism in the State of Mississippi. Our Order is in a flourishing condition. The Lord has smiled graciously upon our fields; our hearts and homes have been enriched by His grace. "The pestilence that walketh in darkness" and "the destruction that wasteth at noon-day" hath been kept from our doors, and peace, the gift of our Divine Lord, reigns supreme in all our borders, and though some of our brethren have laid down their swords and crossed over the river, we have been spared, and are permitted to greet each other again.

The question asked by our Lord in the Text, "whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" is one of wonderful significance, and is worthy of our earnest investigation. The answer that Peter gave when he said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," contains the very essence of the Gospel, and is the foundation of our holy Christianity. Upon this declaration, and this truth so grandly uttered by Peter, then started a movement that has spread over the world, and is chris-

tianizing the nations of the earth. It is true that at first the movement seemed too small and insignificant, but it has rolled on in magnitude, and in majestic splendor, until it has poured its wonderful blessings upon the race.

The chief element of strength in this movement, is the personality of its founder, "Christ the Son of the living God." He started the waves of influence that have astonished and shaken the world.

Jesus becomes the ideal character by combining in himself a world-wide sympathy for humanity, with a loftiness of purpose that is commensurate with the needs of the race of mankind. The rigors of an offended law have been softened through Him, and the condition of man in every clime has been ameliorated, mutual rights have been encouraged, the establishment of peace, and the enjoyment of domestic tranquillity have been secured.

It was the name of "Jesus" that gave the movement its mightiest motive power, and started it upon a mission of helpfulness throughout the world, and that name to-day is the sweetest name that is uttered by human lips. Who then is this "Jesus?" What do men think of Him? "What shall we do with Jesus?"

The Master did not ask the question in the text, as the result of over-sensitiveness, as one would feel who was seeking for popular applause, for when he performed a miracle on a certain occasion, He said, "See thou tell no man but go and offer the gift that Moses commanded." He only seems to have desired a recital of the current opinions concerning himself that He might teach His disciples a great lesson in spiritual and divine Truth. Some believed at that time that Jesus was the returned spirit of John the Baptist or one of the prophets.

When Jesus looked upon His disciples He asked them a very direct and pointed question: "Whom say ye that I am?" The impetuous, ever-ready Peter, answered: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." I have no idea that Peter had any conception of the depth of meaning conveyed by his own confession as contained in this answer. Jesus said to him: "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee but my Father which is in Heaven." What then is the world's opinion of Christ? The Socinians say that He was a mere man, though admitting that he was the best type of men and that the world is to be saved through his example, but the fact that Jesus suffered as our substitute and that He became the sin-offering for the world proves that He was more than a mere man. The power that He exercised proves that He was God as well as man; see Him standing upon the prow of the ship that was tossed upon the waves of the Sea of Gallilee when He said to the winds and waves "Peace, be still," and there was a great calm, and tell me if He was not God as well as man. Some have held that he was the greatest creature that God ever made, though only a creature, but St. Luke declares "that the angel told Mary that that holy thing which should be born of her should be called the Son of God," hence He was

both human and divine. But what are the proofs of the Messiahship of Christ? First, Jesus is the Christ of Prophecy and in Him the deliverance of the prophets had their fulfillment.

It was said "that the scepter should not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come," and when this was fulfilled Judah lost her tribal distinctions forever, as Christ the legal successor to the throne, being the descendant of David, had come, and His dominion is to be perpetual because the royal family terminated in Him.

The mother of Jesus was the daughter of Jacob, heir apparent to the throne, and when Joseph the son of Heli married Mary he was transferred to the royal line, and as Jesus had no posterity the royal family terminated in Him, and upon His assumption of the throne He became the King of the Jews forever after the order of Melchisedec. Christ, then, being the Messiah of Prophecy, as given to us through the Old Testament, how can the Jews refuse to accept Him?

Then again Prophecy tells us that Jesus was to be a miracle worker. The "lame man was to leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing." So when He came, at His approach death forsook its strongholds and devils trembled and fled. The eyes of the blind were opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped; so then in His mighty works He demonstrated that He was the Christ of Prophecy. His own resurrection was the greatest of miracles and establishes His claim to the Messiahship beyond all doubt. No reformer of any age has ever died and arisen again from the dead, but just as the morning sun came over the hilltops of Judea, Jesus burst the bonds of death and came back to life again, and walked upon the earth for the space of forty days, and then ascended up into heaven and sits at the right hand of God.

The resurrection of Christ is the grandest event of the ages; for "if Christ be not risen then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable, but now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept."

In the second place, Jesus is the Christ and the Messiah, because of the intrinsic value of the truth that He taught.

He put a value upon man which had never been placed upon him before, and which has revolutionized the world's idea of man. It is true that "man born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble," yet Jesus estimates his value above all worlds.

We estimate a city's greatness by its magnificent buildings, its towering domes and gilded palaces, but the idea of Jesus is to estimate it by the character of the men who are its citizens, and its greatness upon that idea is not according to its numbers in population, but the character of that population, and the cities which are the homes of the great and good men of this nation and of the world, are great indeed from the stand-point of the Son of God, regardless of their population, or



magnificent buildings. Jesus puts man in the center of the universe, and says that he is greater than all suns, all moons and all stars, that wheel around him because he is God-inspired, and God-responsive, and this theory of Jesus as to man has startled the world, and placed man upon a higher scale, making him indeed a fit temple for God to dwell in, and inspiration cries out "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God"—"For ye are the temple of the living God, as God hath said I will dwell in them and walk in them."

Jesus took upon himself the form of man and thus he touches human life at every point, and can sympathize with us in our sorrows and share our griefs. See Him at the grave of Lazarus and what more affecting scene is recorded in His life than was enacted there? See Him as He meets the widow of Nain, carrying her only son out to be buried. See Him as he touches the leper, and heals him. See Him as he speaks to the palsied one, and says, "Arise, take up thy bed and walk." See Him all through His short life, and tell me if we have not in this Divine Messiah, one who is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities." One to whom we can go for succor and help, when we are in distress, and standing by the open grave that is to contain our dead ones, that make life happy and sweet.

The hold of Jesus upon the race continues to be the marvel of the ages. Without worldly wealth or honor—without political power or family fame—without standing armies or trained navies, He enters the domain of human action, and to-day He commands the love of more hearts, and is the inspiration of more lives, than all the reformers the world has ever produced. He has inspired everything that is beautiful in art, all that is melodious in music, all that is thrilling in literature, all that is noble in poetry finds inspiration in Jesus of Nazareth.

The towers of the millions of churches erected in His name and for His service, pointing heavenward, are expressions of His love. His sympathy is felt in every asylum that furnishes a home for the orphan. His kindness is felt in every home, however humble, where His name is loved and honored. His forgiveness is offered to every returning prodigal, and His praise bursts forth from the lips of every "captive set free," and to-day this Divine Messiah looks down upon humanity with the same sympathy that so characterized His life upon earth.

In the third and last place, the crowning evidence of the Messiahship of Christ lies in the consciousness of the believer.

Jesus said to Peter, "Flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but my Father which is in Heaven."

This shows that Divine truth is not revealed to the intellect entirely as the result of intellectual toil and study, but there is a revelation that comes to the heart by the Holy Spirit, that is more powerful and more convincing than that received through the intellect. It is this revelation to the heart by the Holy Spirit that thrills the soul with "joy un-

speaking," and full of glory, and which enables us to look up to God and cry "Abba Father, my Lord and my God."

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man, the things that God has in reserve for those that love Him, but "God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God," hence his knowledge is not discovered by the mental powers alone, or conceived of by the imagination, but is revealed to us by and through the agency of the Holy Spirit. The heart of Jesus had longed for the time when his disciples would be sufficiently advanced in spiritual knowledge to allow him to disclose his utmost thoughts to them.

Every converted man has an evidence in his own heart that Jesus is the Christ. The scriptures tell us that "If any man will do his will he shall know of the doctrine." Therefore the sense of certainty comes to every heart when we do "his will" and the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit "that we are the children of God."

Then Christ is the Messiah, and our noble Order recognizes this grand truth, and teaches His resurrection in such a forcible and pathetic manner that it impresses itself upon every heart that beats in the bosom of each member of our grand brotherhood. May we all have part in the "first resurrection."

During the devotional exercises, the Church choir furnished excellent music. The usual collection was taken for the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum, and the sum of \$27.80 contributed.

On returning to the Asylum, the R. E. Grand Commander, Sir F. P. Jenkins, read his address, as follows:

## ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDER.

SIR KNIGHTS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI:

Again we meet in Annual Conclave. Let us have gratitude in our hearts, that our Heavenly Father in His infinite mercy and goodness has permitted us once more to enjoy the exalted privilege of greeting each other, and by our association and counsel, on this occasion, strengthen those ties of friendship that bind us together as one grand brotherhood.

Harmony has prevailed throughout the borders of our jurisdiction. We have had a year of great prosperity. We are entering upon an era in our history that will be the brightest this commonwealth has ever experienced. It seems that the tide of immigration is flowing towards our Sunny Southland, and ere long our broad acres will again be yielding a golden harvest. This sterling manhood that has caused the waste places of other sections of our great Republic to blossom like the rose, is entering Mississippi. We extend to all who may visit us, either for pleasure or profit, a most cordial welcome. We assure them that the road to wealth leads through the South, and that Mississippi embraces

the richest section of this road. Numerically, Templarism is not progressing in this State as we should like to see it. Let us not be discouraged; let us rather redouble our efforts to elevate those already in our ranks; let us set up a standard of morality as high as our knighthood is ancient and chivalric; let us be just and fear not; "Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

It is a deplorable fact that a great many have passed through our solemn ceremonies and departed from our Asylums no better men, husbands, fathers and citizens than they were before being knighted. They are Templars simply in name; and we are weakened instead of strengthened by this class of membership. The sequence of this condition of affairs is directly traceable to the fact that we do not guard the doors of our Asylums with that circumspection that becomes true Knights.

I will make some suggestions that I believe will enure to our advantage. I submit the following: Each Subordinate Commandery should provide itself with the paraphernalia necessary to impress the neophyte when he receives the orders with their beauty and worth, and inculcate, as far as possible, those principles that are the foundation stones of true Templarism, which were so beautifully portrayed in the life and teachings of our Blessed Master while upon earth. The officers should be Sir Knights that walk upright in all the stations of life; christians in all the term implies, as well as thoroughly imbued with zeal and enthusiasm for the welfare of the Order. If these suggestions were followed our ranks would fill up with true, noble, God-fearing men; men who would shed lustre upon our Order, and whose honored influence upon it could not be lessened by the flight of time, or extinguished by the winds of eternity.

Every Sir Knight who wishes to let his light shine, should connect himself with the church of his choice. Templarism was not designed to take its place, but on the contrary was intended to be its most ardent supporter, and to be ready at all times to join hands with the band of christian workers, in planting the cross in those benighted lands where the glad tidings of "Peace on earth and good will to men" has never been proclaimed; where ignorance and crimes innumerable prevail. Now, we are, to a certain extent, responsible for the condition of our fellow man; and surely our "lot has fallen in pleasant places;" our homes are in christian America. As a people, we have received many blessings at the hands of our Merciful Father, and we would be ungrateful to him if we did not make an effort to improve the moral status of those who are not so highly favored.

There is not a vale or a mountain-top where the gospel of our Blessed Christ cannot be preached. The dark days of persecution have almost vanished, and Templars should sheath their swords and assist the church in elevating to a higher plane, both intellectually and morally, and enlist under the banner of King Emanuel those nations that are hovering in superstition and idolatry; and who cannot enjoy the rights

and privileges of an enlightened civilization. This may not be in accordance with our views, but we have the promise that we will not only be rewarded in this life, but will receive life everlasting in that home of the Christ. To obtain it we must make some sacrifices, but we must remember the example of our crucified but risen Saviour, and follow it. He left the courts of glory and dwelt among perishing humanity, suffering greater trials and persecutions than we will ever endure; all this was done for us, and it is expected that we should, as his disciples, heed his parting words, and to all nations proclaim his truth.

Now the opportunities afforded us are limited; as the time between this existence and never-ending eternity is short, let us improve them, and when our pilgrimage has neared the end, those years spent in the work of the Great Captain of our Salvation "will, upon memory's sea, appear like silver barks with golden freight."

Now, as Templars, our names should be on the church register; but should not be recorded on a petition to retail vinous and spiritous liquors to be used as a beverage. The Grand Lodges of this and sister States have said that no saloon-keeper shall be a Mason; let Christian Templarism go one step farther, and say, any one whose name appears upon a petition recommending its sale should not be admitted in our Asylums or receive any of the rights and benefits derived from an institution whose grand characteristic is a defense of the Christian religion and a practice of the Christian rites.

Now, Sir Knights, in writing this address to you, do not think that I am desirous of depriving you of any privilege that may be accorded you be reason of your free moral agency; neither would I attempt to withdraw my friendship from you because we may differ upon this point, but take this suggestion under consideration and if it will be beneficial to the Order, adopt it; if you think otherwise, reject it. I'll bear no ill will towards any one, for I believe that brothers should dwell together in peace and unity. My love for Templarism has prompted my utterance throughout. I do not want a stain upon her escutcheon, and I wish Mississippi to take the lead of her sister jurisdictions in promulgating these reforms that I conceive to be for the best interests of our Order. They may not receive the plaudits of our fellow-man, but will have the approving smiles of God, which is far better.

#### NECROLOGY.

"The boast of heraldy, the pomp of power  
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave—  
Await alike the inevitable hour,  
The path of glory leads but to the grave."

Death is the common heritage of all mankind, and the silent grave where our loved ones and friends sleep, will some day soon be our resting place; but to the Templar "it is not all of life to live nor all of death to die," for there is implanted within us by our Great Creator a new life that will survive physical death and decay. And if we put our

trust in Him and follow in the footsteps of His beloved Son and Saviour we will dwell forever in the mansions of the blest. As a Grand Commandery we meet again; the arrows of the grim archer have not passed over us, but most of us are the spared, lasting monuments of a loving Father's tender mercy and protection. Some of our sister jurisdictions have sustained heavy losses, and we mingle our sorrows with them to-day in their bereavements. A great many illustrious Sir Knights have passed over the river. I make mention of one especially:

Virginia mourns the death of R. E. Sir William B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment. A beautiful tribute to his worth and character is from the pen of Grand Master Hugh McCurdy.

The death of the following Sir Knights of our jurisdiction have been reported to me:

February 14th, R. E. N. S. Walker, P. G. C., Port Gibson, was Grand Commander in 1888.

P. E. Commander Martin Marshall, of Magnolia Commandery, No. 2.

P. E. Commander James T. Fant, Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4.

I would recommend that a page be set apart in our proceedings as a tribute to their memories.

#### GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

On November 12th, commissioned Sir James Morton, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as the Representative of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi near the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

On November 12th, commissioned Sir John Anderson, of Binghampton, N. Y., as the Representative of Mississippi near the Grand Commandery of New York.

On November 12th, commissioned Sir F. O. Miller, of Fort Valley, Ga., as the Representative of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi near the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

On November 21st, commissioned Sir James A. Hawley as the Representative of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi near the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

#### NEW GRAND COMMANDERIES.

We welcome among our number the recently constituted Grand Commanderies of the District of Columbia and the Indian Territory. I had an invitation to the organization of the former, and regret that it was not convenient for me to attend at the time.

#### DISPENSATIONS.

For good and sufficient reasons, I granted the following dispensations:

On April 14th, granted dispensation to Delta Commandery, Greenville, Miss., to hold a stated Conclave at an irregular time, and to receive and ballot on application of Comp. A. Y. Scott.

On March 11th, granted dispensation to Rosalie Commandery, No. 5, at an irregular Conclave, to receive and ballot upon the petition of Comp. McCormick.

On May 14th, granted a dispensation to Rosalie Commandery, No. 5, to hold a stated Conclave to receive and ballot upon the petition of a Companion.

On May 21st, granted a dispensation to Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, to attend services at City Hall, on Ascension Day, Thursday, 23d.

On May 21st, granted dispensation to Mississippi Commandery, No. 1, to hold special Conclave to receive and ballot upon the application of Comps. Hyman Folkes, E. P. Odeneal and Richard Griffith.

On May 24th, granted dispensation to Cyrene Commandery to receive, refer and ballot upon the petitions of Comps. A. J. Russell and A. A. Kincannon.

On June 17th, granted dispensation to St. Cyr Commandery, No. 6, at a regular Conclave to receive, refer and ballot upon the petition of seven Companions, five from Lexington and one each from Oxford and Coffeerville.

On December 18th, at request of Sir E. G. DeLap, granted dispensation to Rosalie Commandery, No. 5, to hold a special Conclave to elect an Eminent Commander in his stead.

On February 7th, granted dispensation to Magnolia Commandery, No. 2, to hold a stated Conclave, receive, refer and ballot upon the application of Comp. A. J. Hood.

#### CHARTER.

February 23, 1895, signed Charter of St. Elmo Commandery, No. 18, Brookhaven, Miss., and commissioned R. E. Sir J. L. Power to constitute the said Commandery U. D. into a regular Commandery.

#### TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE.

I regret very much my inability to have our State represented as it should have been at the Grand Encampment, but it was not altogether my fault. A committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. Neither can I lay blame on them, but suppose it was lack of enthusiasm on their part. The appropriation made by our Grand Commandery was sufficient. No arrangement had been made until my arrival in Boston. I secured headquarters for the State upon Columbia Avenue, as well located as other jurisdictions, the principal hotels excepted, and we could if we had made the arrangements before hand, secured quarters in them; but do not think we would have derived any advantage by so doing. The people of Boston did everything in their power to contribute to our welfare and enjoyment, and I believe if they manifested any partiality to their visitors, those from the South were the favored ones. I had occasion to make a response to the toast offered by the Mayor of Worcester, Mass., to the State of Mississippi, in which I informed them that I had been so cordially welcomed and royally en-

tertained by the people of Massachusetts that I had almost forgotten that I had a Southern home. I also assured them that the past had been blotted from our remembrance—that we are a united people. This statement was well received. We all rejoiced together. The Sir Knights who were so fortunate as to be present at a banquet given them will remember with a great pleasure their kindness and hospitality. Mississippi was not mentioned in the papers at the time, as being in the parade, but we were nevertheless, and I felt as much pride with only a few Sir Knights who had the courage to accompany me, as those Commanderies who numbered their hundreds in the line of march through the streets of the historic city of Boston. Now, let us commence to make arrangements for the coming Triennial at Pittsburg. I have had some experience, and I am willing to do all in my power to see that Mississippi is properly represented on that occasion.

#### CONCLUSION.

Now, Sir Knights, I lay down the authority vested in me. You have conferred upon me the highest honor that this Grand Body could bestow upon any one. I will always cherish in my memory feelings of the highest appreciation of your confidence and esteem. I am indebted to the Grand Recorder for his kindness and counsel in many instances, without which I am afraid my bark would have been wrecked.

I had hopes when I entered upon the duties of the office to which I had been called by you a year ago, that something would be accomplished by me for the good of Templarism, but my plans and purposes did not materialize. Let my successor to this high and responsible position profit by my mistakes, and may a glorious success crown all his efforts; and now let us all be faithful soldiers of the Cross, and when we lay aside our armor may we all meet in the Grand Asylum above; and may we hear from the lips of that great Captain the words of welcome:

“Servant of God, well done;  
Rest from thy loved employ,  
The battle fought, the victory won,  
Enter thy Master's joy.”

On motion of Past Grand Commander Savery, the address of R. E. Grand Commander was received, ordered spread upon the minutes, and referred as follows:

1. So much as refers to equipment of members as an aid to prosperity, and connection with the church as a paramount duty of Templars, to a special committee of three.
2. So much as refers to sale or use of intoxicants, to the same committee.
3. So much as refers to necrology to a special committee of three.
4. So much as refers to Grand Representatives—approved.
5. So much as refers to the new Grand Commanderies of District of Columbia and Indian Territory, to a special committee of three.

6. So much as refers to dispensations, to the Committee on Templar Law.

7. So much as refers to correspondence with Texas and Louisiana in regard to waiver of jurisdiction, to the Committee on Templar Law.

8. So much as refers to Triennial Conclave Grand Encampment, to the Finance Committee.

The V. E. Deputy Grand Commander announced the special committees provided for in the foregoing:

Paragraphs Nos. 1 and 2—Sirs E. G. DeLap, P. M. Savery, William G. Paxton.

Paragraph No. 3—Sirs John A. B. Jones, B. A. Vaughan.

Paragraphs Nos. 4 and 5—Sirs O. L. McKay, S. H. Pryor, W. H. Clifton.

Comp. DeLap submitted his annual Report on Fraternal Correspondence, which was received and ordered published with the proceedings.

The following Committees were also announced:

FINANCE—J. F. Dixon, T. B. Franklin, G. D. Brown.

The Grand Recorder submitted his Annual Report and account, as follows:

#### REPORT OF GRAND RECORDER.

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI:

It is with special gratitude that I submit to this Grand Body my Twenty-sixth Annual Report. Since our last Grand Conclave, as most of you know, your Grand Recorder has had a very close call, but the good Lord was gracious enough to spare him yet a while to meet and mingle with his fraters in these Asylums. He is now next to the head of the list of Grand Recorders in seniority of service—Sir Knight Robt. Brewster, of Texas, leading the column.

The receipts for the year 1895, are as follows:

Mississippi Commandery, No. 1, dues 1894.....	\$ 50 00
Magnolia Commandery, No. 2, dues 1894.....	71 00
Magnolia Commandery, No. 2, dues 1891, in part.....	17 05
Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4, dues 1894.....	55 00
Rosalie Commandery, No. 5, dues 1894.....	78 00
St. Cyr Commandery, No. 6, dues 1894.....	69 00
DeMolay Commandery, No. 8, dues 1894.....	37 00
Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, dues 1894.....	146 00
Cœur de Lion Commandery, No. 13, dues 1894.....	11 00
Delta Commandery, No. 16, dues 1894.....	35 00
Delta Commandery, No. 16, dues 1893.....	18 00
Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17, dues 1894.....	42 00
St. Elmo Commandery, No. 18, dues 1894.....	70 00
From Grand Commander, appropriation for Grand Encampment, not used.....	150 00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$849 05</b>



The disbursements include \$250.00 toward expenses of our Grand Commandery headquarters at the Boston Triennial, of which the R. E. Grand Commander returned \$150.00, unexpended.

The proceedings of the Triennial have recently been received—one copy for each Commandery, and one for the four principal officers of the Grand Commandery.

The Grand Recorder Grand Encampment notes that Mississippi failed to report for 1895. The report was dictated from a sick-bed, when I was hardly able to sign it, and New York exchange was sent for the dues—mailed to Grand Recorder Isaacs, Boston, early in August, and if it reached him it was doubtless after his report had been printed for Grand Encampment. I have not yet received acknowledgment of the report or dues.

The following tabulated statement shows the gains and losses in our Commanderies during the year 1895 :

COMMANDERIES.	No	Knighted	Affiliated	Reinstated	Dimitted	Died	Suspended. Dues	Suspended U. C.	Expelled	Total Dues	Total Members
Mississippi.....	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	41 00	31
Magnolia.....	2	3	1	4	2	4	4	4	4	69 00	54
Holly Springs.....	4	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	22 00	22
Rosalie.....	5	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	57 00	52
St. Cyr.....	6	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	98 00	58
DeMolay.....	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	38 00	33
Cyrene.....	9	10	3	1	1	4	4	4	4	117 00	67
Ivanhoe.....	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	46 00	46
Cœur de Lion.....	13	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	9 00	9
Delta.....	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20 00	20
Aberdeen.....	17	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	31 00	26
St. Elmo.....	18	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	58 00	23
	34	3	5	4	10	12	1	1	1	\$606 00	441

The death roll includes R. E. Past Grand Commander N. S. Walker, who faithfully served this Grand Body in its highest station in 1887, and who died at his home in Port Gibson, August 12th. Also, Sir Knight Martin Marshall, P. E. C. Magnolia Commandery, No. 2, who died September 18th; Sir James T. Fant, Past E. C. Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4, died August 21st, 1895. Two deaths in Cœur de Lion Commandery, No. 13, reduces the membership to a bare quorum.

On the 15th of March, it was my privilege to constitute, by authority of the Grand Commander, St. Elmo Commandery, under charter granted at last Grand Conclave, and install the officers thereof. The Commandery takes rank as No. 18, and in all that goes to make up a good Commandery stands "first among its equals."

Since last Grand Conclave, Grand Representatives were commissioned to and from this Grand Commandery, as follows:

October 23—From Grand Commandery of Maine—renewal of commission for Sir C. L. Lincoln—dated October 10, 1895.

November 19—From Grand Commandery of Minnesota—renewal of commission for R. E. Sir H. M. Romberger—dated November 12, 1895.

November 26—From Grand Commandery West Virginia—renewal of commission for R. E. Sir W. A. Bodenhamer—dated November 20, 1895.

November 30—From Grand Commandery Vermont—renewal commission for R. E. Sir J. J. Hays—dated November 15, 1895.

December 6—From Grand Commandery of Nebraska—renewal commission for Sir E. N. Thomas—dated November 25, 1895.

December 6—Received notice that R. E. Sir B. A. Vaughan would be re-commissioned Representative Grand Commandery Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

December 19—From Grand Commandery South Dakota—renewal commission for Sir William G. Sykes—dated November 27, 1895.

Most of the Grand Commanderies issue these commissions for the term of three years—from one Grand Encampment Conclave to the next.

The list of Grand Representatives to and from the Grand Commandery of Mississippi needs considerable revision. Some who are accredited from other jurisdictions very seldom attend our Conclaves, and some of those who appear on the rolls of other Grand Commanderies as representing Mississippi might resign the honor to others more zealous. It was my purpose, under the direction of the Grand Commander, to make this revision, but other duties recently have prevented.

Courteously submitted,

J. L. POWER,

Grand Recorder.

The Grand Treasurer submitted his Annual Account, with accompanying vouchers, as follows:

#### REPORT OF GRAND TREASURER.

GUS. J. BAHIN,

IN ACCOUNT WITH GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI:

1894.

DR.

Feb. 12—To balance this date.....\$ 305 04

1896.

Feb. 18—To cash of Grand Recorder to date..... 849 05

\$1,154 09

CR.

Nolan Stewart, Mississippi Commandery, No. 1.....\$ 2 50

W. G. Paxton, Magnolia Commandery, No. 2..... 17 05

J. W. Stephenson, Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4..... 11 70

J. C. French, Rosalie Commandery, No. 5..... 25 00



**MAGNOLIA, No. 2—**

William G. Paxton, P. G. C., proxy for E. C. C.

**HOLLY SPRINGS, No. 4—**

S. H. Pryor, Eminent Commander.

George C. Myers, P. E. C.

M. H. Leach, P. E. C.

**ROSALIE, No. 5—**

J. Foggo Dixon, Eminent Commander.

M. Beltzhoover, Captain-General.

**ST. CYR, No. 6—**

G. D. Brown, Eminent Commander.

**DEMOULAY, No. 8—**

B. A. Weaver, Captain-General.

**CYRENE, No. 9—**

J. H. Wright, Eminent Commander.

E. J. Martin, Captain-General.

**IVANHOE, No. 10—**

J. W. Keyes, Captain-General.

N. G. Augustus, P. E. C.

**DELTA, No. 16—**

William Starling, Eminent Commander.

**ABERDEEN, No. 17—**

A. A. Posey, Eminent Commander.

O. L. McKay, Generalissimo.

W. H. Clifton, proxy for Captain-General.

**ST. ELMO, No. 18—**

E. McCormick, Captain-General.

Courteously submitted,

J. H. WRIGHT,

GEO. C. MYERS,

A. A. POSEY,

Committee.

The report was received and Committee continued.

Sir O. L. McKay offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Sir Knight W. B. Walker, Past Eminent Commander of Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17, and Grand Captain-General of this Grand Commandery, has recently removed to the State of Washington, therefore—

*Be it Resolved*, That our beloved Frater, Sir W. B. Walker, is hereby most cordially commended to the courteous consideration of the Templars of Washington, assuring them that they will find in him a gentleman and a Sir Knight *sans peur et sans reproche*. Our loss is their substantial gain.

On motion, Grand Commandery proceeded to the election of Grand Officers, resulting as follows :

SIR J. M. BUCHANAN, M. D.....Meridian .....Grand Commander.  
 SIR JAMES T. HARRISON.....Columbus.....Dep. Grand Commander.  
 SIR WILLIAM STABLING.....Greenville.....Grand Generalissimo.  
 SIR JOHN S. COBB.....Verona .....Grand Captain-General.  
 REV. SIR JOHN A. B. JONES.....Canton.....Grand Prelate.  
 SIR J. W. KEYES.....Tupelo.....Grand Senior Warden.  
 SIR O. L. MCKAY.....Aberdeen .....Grand Junior Warden.  
 SIR G. J. BAHIN.....Natchez.....Grand Treasurer.  
 SIR J. L. POWER .....Jackson .....Grand Recorder.  
 SIR J. F. DIXON .....Natchez.....Grand Standard Bearer.  
 SIR GEORGE C. HOSKINS .....Brookhaven.....Grand Sword Bearer.  
 SIR GEORGE C. MYERS.....Holly Springs...Grand Warden.

On motion of Grand Recorder, the R. E. Grand Commander is authorized to appoint Grand Captain of the Guard from the Commandery stationed at such place as may be selected for next Grand Conclave.

Sir Knight John Mason, of Bay City Commandery, No. 26, Michigan, was introduced, cordially welcomed and invited to a seat during the sessions of Grand Commandery.

Sir Savery announced the death on the 14th inst., of Sir Thomas E. Cannon, at his home in Verona. Sir Cannon was Knighted in 1853, and was longer in affiliation than any other Templar in the jurisdiction.

The following was offered and unanimously adopted :

*Resolved*, That Sir Gus. J. Bahin, our present efficient Grand Treasurer, be and he is hereby created an Honorary Past Grand Commander of this Grand Commandery.

Signed by

F. P. JINKINS,  
 FREDERIC SPEED,  
 W. G. PAXTON,  
 B. A. VAUGHAN,  
 P. M. SAVERY,  
 E. G. DELAP.

The following, offered by Past Grand Commander Speed, was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the resolution of the Grand Commandery, adopted in 1894, permitting Royal Arch Masons residing in the counties of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson, to apply to either of the Commanderies in New Orleans or Mobile for the Templar Orders, be repealed, a Commandery being about to be organized on the Gulf Coast.

#### NEW GRAND COMMANDERIES.

The following was submitted and adopted :

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY :

Your Committee to whom was referred so much of the R. E. Grand Commander's Address relative to the formation of new Grand Commanderies, courteously report that the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia was instituted on January 4, 1896, with Right Eminent Sir Noble D. Larner as Grand Commander, and Sir J. L. Johnson

as Grand Recorder, and the Grand Commandery of Indian Territory, recently organized, are hereby cordially welcomed to the galaxy of Grand Commanderies of the United States.

Courteously submitted,  
O. L. McKAY,  
SAM. H. PRYOR,  
WILEY H. CLIFTON,  
Committee.

Grand Commandery, at 4 o'clock P. M., adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

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## SECOND DAY.

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WEDNESDAY, February 19, 1896.

The Grand Commandery met pursuant to adjournment at 9 o'clock A. M.

Past Grand Master Vaughan moved to amend Section —, Constitution of Grand Gommandery, by striking out the figure 4 and insert the figure 5.

Which motion was referred to Committee on Templar Law, to report at next Grand Conclave.

### FRATERNAL GREETINGS.

Past Grand Commander Vaughan submitted the following, which was ordered spread upon the minutes :

*Resolved*, That the Senior Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the United States, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, send fraternal greeting to her sister of Mississippi, with the hope that the cordial relations at present existing may, be ever maintained.

Fraternally,  
B. A. VAUGHAN,  
Past Grand Commander, Grand Representative.

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The following report was submitted and adopted :

#### TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY :

Your Finance Committee beg leave to report that we have examined the reports of the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer, and find the same to be correct. We find several amounts in Treasurer's statement as having been paid out, for which there are no vouchers. Your Committee called upon the Grand Recorder and he made satisfactory explanations in regard to each item, and your committee are satisfied that both reports show the actual receipts and expenditures, but we submit that this is not business, and recommend that hereafter all moneys be promptly turned over to the Grand Treasurer, and paid out only on a proper voucher from the Grand Recorder.

We further recommend that the Grand Recorder provide himself with regular warrants to be used for such purpose.

Courteously submitted,

J. FOGGO DIXON,  
T. B. FRANKLIN,  
G. D. BROWN,  
Committee.

#### REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

The following report was submitted and adopted :

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY :

The Special Committee to whom was referred sundry portions of the R. E. Grand Commander's address, most heartily approve and commend his suggestion that Knights Templar, professing faith in the Christian religion and practice of Christian virtues, should in all fitness and propriety illustrate and exemplify that *faith* by active membership in an Evangelical Church—finding in that relation a wider field and broader opportunity for having their “lights so shine that others taking knowledge of their good works may glorify our Father which is in Heaven.”

In regard to that portion of the address which refers to the signing of liquor petitions, while your committee, or members thereof, as applying to their individual action, may feel that the Grand Lodge of Masons having declared the selling of liquor a Masonic offense, that an act such as the signing of a petition which enables another to do an immoral act, that is to commit a Masonic offense, would make them *particeps criminis* in any and all the evils which may, or do, follow such a traffic, they are yet constrained to admit that underlying this proposition is the great Masonic principle of “liberty of conscience,” and that it is the privilege of every Mason, laying aside prejudice, on this and other moral questions, to act according to the dictates of his individual conscience and so pattern his conduct as shall be to the best interest and highest development of the community in which he may live.

P. M. SAVERY,  
E. G. DELAP,  
W. G. PAXTON,  
Committee.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPLAR LAW.

TO GRAND COMMANDERY OF STATE OF MISSISSIPPI :

Committee on Templar Law have had under consideration the decisions of the Grand Commander and the several dispensations granted, and correspondence with Grand Commander of Texas, in reference to waiver of jurisdiction, in a case stated, and find them in strict accordance with Templar Law.

FREDERIC SPEED,  
W. G. PAXTON,  
P. M. SAVERY.  
Committee.

Which was adopted.

#### REPORT ON NECROLOGY.

The following report was submitted and unanimously adopted :

After the battles of another year we are permitted to meet in our General Assembly, pay our devotions to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, adore our Heavenly Father whose watchful care and tender

mercy are evidenced in the preservation of our lives. While we are permitted to answer again to our names at this our annual roll-call, some of our Fraters have been summoned to report where the smoke of battle is never seen and the clash of swords never heard.

We are denied the pleasure of seeing their familiar forms, of hearing their animating voices, and receiving the grasps of their hands, giving inspiration to noble effort and heroic endurance. The Divine Commander has said to them "It is enough." They have sheathed their swords, laid aside the emblems of their pilgrimage and their warfare, and we trust have fallen asleep in Jesus—

" Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep  
From which none ever wake to weep,  
A calm and undisturbed repose  
Unbroken by the last of foes."

Sir N. S. Walker, Past Grand Commander, ended his years of warfare at his home in Port Gibson, Miss., August 12, 1895.

Sir Knight Walker was a courteous and valiant knight, beautifully illustrating the teachings of our magnanimous Order in all the endearing relations, arduous labors, and high responsibilities of life. We halt to-day and place again the sprig of acacia at his tomb.

" So Jesus slept, God's dying Son  
Passed through the grave and blessed the bed ;  
Rest here, blessed saint, till from His throne  
The morning break, and pierce the shade."

Rev. W. E. Ballard, of Rosalie No. 5, was called to his rest from his home in Natchez, Miss., November 23, 1895. He had long been an acceptable and efficient minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He had wielded his sword with a strong and knightly arm, and deposited it without a single tarnish upon the gleaming blade.

" Servant of God, well done ;  
Rest from thy loved employ.  
The battle fought, the victory won,  
Enter the Master's joy."

" The pains of death are past,  
Labor and sorrow cease  
And life's long warfare closed at last  
His soul is found in peace.

Soldier of Christ. well done ;  
Praise be thy new employ,  
And while eternal ages run  
Rest in thy Saviour's joy."

The following Sir Knights, loved, honored, and mourned by their Companions, were not sufficiently known by your committee to justify extended report :



Sir Wells C. Harrell, of Mississippi No. 1—died April 9.  
Sir Chas. Peine, of Magnolia No. 2—died March 14.  
Sir Martin Marshall, P. E. C., Magnolia No. 2—died September 18.  
Sir James T. Fant, P. E. C., Holly Springs No. 4—died August 21.  
Sir Ben C. Smitha, of Rosalie No. 5—died January 20.  
Sir R. E. Harris, of Cyrene No. 9—died October 19.  
Sir A. G. Harkreader, of Ivanhoe No. 10—died June 14.  
Sir W. B. Fulkerson, of Cœur de Lion No. 13—died June 4.

J. A. B. JONES,  
WM. STARLING,  
B. A. VAUGHAN,  
Committee.

The Grand Officers elect were then duly installed by Past Grand Commander P. M. Savery.

On motion of Past Grand Commander Speed, the thanks of the Grand Commandery were very cordially tendered to Past Grand Commander F. P. Jenkins, for his very satisfactory administration as Grand Commander during the past year.

On motion of Grand Recorder, it was ordered that the next Grand Conclave shall be held at such place as may be chosen by the Grand Lodge, and on two days preceding.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the following

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

TEMPLAR LAW—Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Vicksburg; William G. Paxton, P. G. C., Vicksburg; P. M. Savery, P. G. C., Tupelo.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—E. G. DeLap, Reporter.

No further business appearing, the Grand Commandery, at 10 o'clock A. M., closed its Thirty-Sixth Annual Conclave in Solemn and Knightly Form, after prayer by Rev. Sir John A. B. Jones, Grand Prelate.

**J. M. BUCHANAN,**

Grand Commander.

ATTEST:



Grand Recorder.



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## **N. S. WALKER.**

A stranger passing through a country village, hearing the church bell tolling, asked who is dead? and received for his reply "a gentleman," an answer which in its truest sense might have been made when all his fellow-citizens of Port Gibson were paying homage at the open grave of N. S. WALKER, who served as Grand Commander in 1887, and whose mortal put on immortality on the 12th day of August last, for he was a man who in all the relations of life was first amongst his equals. Honored with the confidence and esteem of the community, he served it for many years consecutively as the Sheriff of Claiborne county, and only gave place to his successor a few months before his death, in consequence of a legal disqualification inserted in the new constitution of the State. A young man, when the unhappy war between the states began he threw all his heart and soul into the contest and all through the long struggle he commanded the affections as well as the persons of his comrades. In the church, he was the leading layman in his parish and in every other relation of life all his influences were for good. His family and friends, and the latter included every one who knew him, always spoke of him in the most affectionate terms. He had served his Lodge as its Master with a singular fidelity and nowhere will his loss be more felt than by his brethren of the mystic tie. But he has laid down the shield and buckler of this earthly warfare and armed with the sword of truth, we doubt not that through the merits of the great Captain of our Salvation, he has entered into the rewards of those who have kept the faith.

F. S.

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## **MARTIN MARSHALL.**

The few words which it is permitted to us to inscribe upon these pages are all too brief in which to speak of the merits of a dear friend who has laid down the working tools of the earthly Lodge and passed through the greater mystery of death. MARTIN MARSHALL, a Past Commander of Magnolia Commandery of Vicksburg, was intellectually and by culture much above the ordinary level of his fellows. Descended from a long line of men renowned throughout the land for their great learning and oratorical powers, he was by nature and education a lawyer of the first rank; the best equipped, "all round" man of the many whom I have known at the bar. He had done so much in the short span of life which was his, that it is impossible to even outline a part of his life's work in this tribute, but suffice it to say here that although he had not yet reached the zenith of his powers, he had won for himself such a place in the community, in the State and especially in the profession which he adorned, that his death was a public calamity.

F. S.

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## **JAMES T. FANT.**

The citizenship of Mississippi has been adorned with no purer, better, braver member than JAMES T. FANT, and when he entered into rest, all who knew him believed that he was ripe for the richest rewards of life eternal. No man could be held in higher esteem, and few could deserve more the love, respect and confidence of their fellow-citizens. His life was, to all, an open book; his presence and example a benediction.

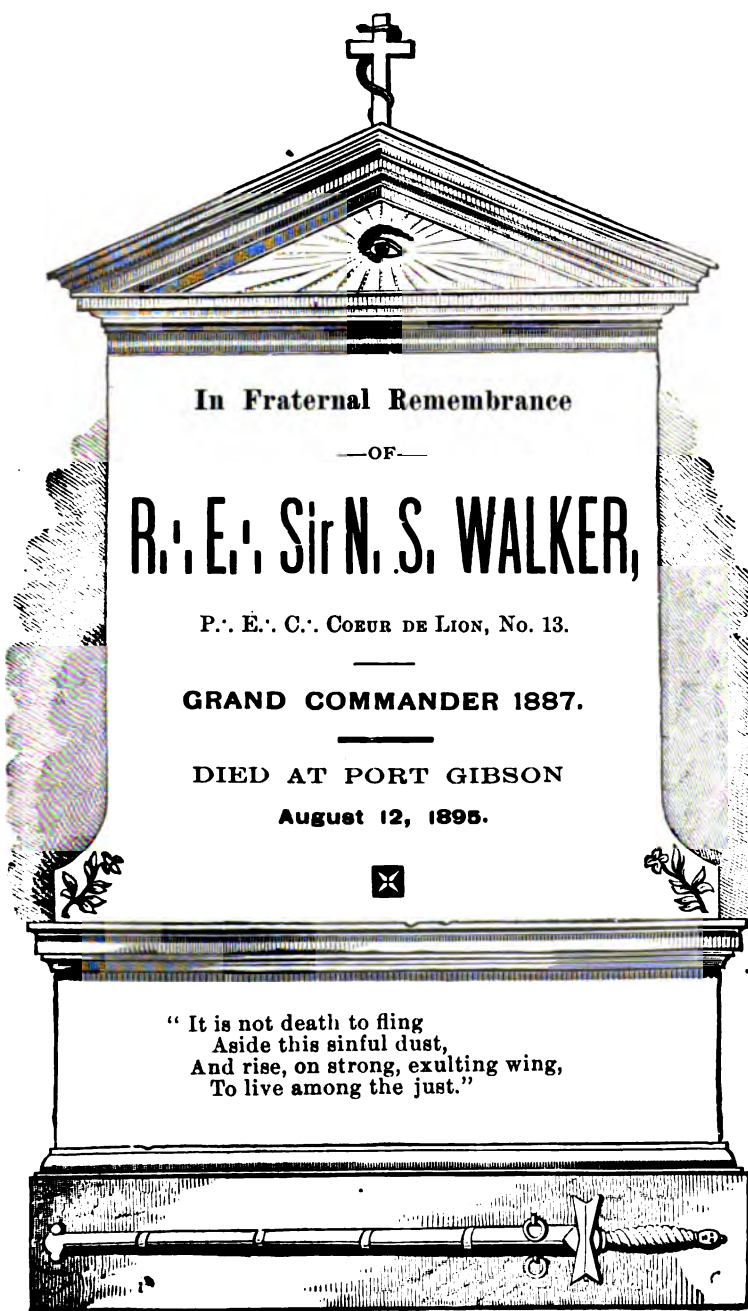
The brief, but comprehensive tribute paid him in the memorial exercises of Grand Lodge, recites that he was "a native of Mississippi, a graduate of the State University, a prominent lawyer, a fearless judge, a faithful christian, a devoted Mason, a true friend. He was a leader among men in social, moral, Masonic and religious life. An ashler of exceeding excellence is broken."

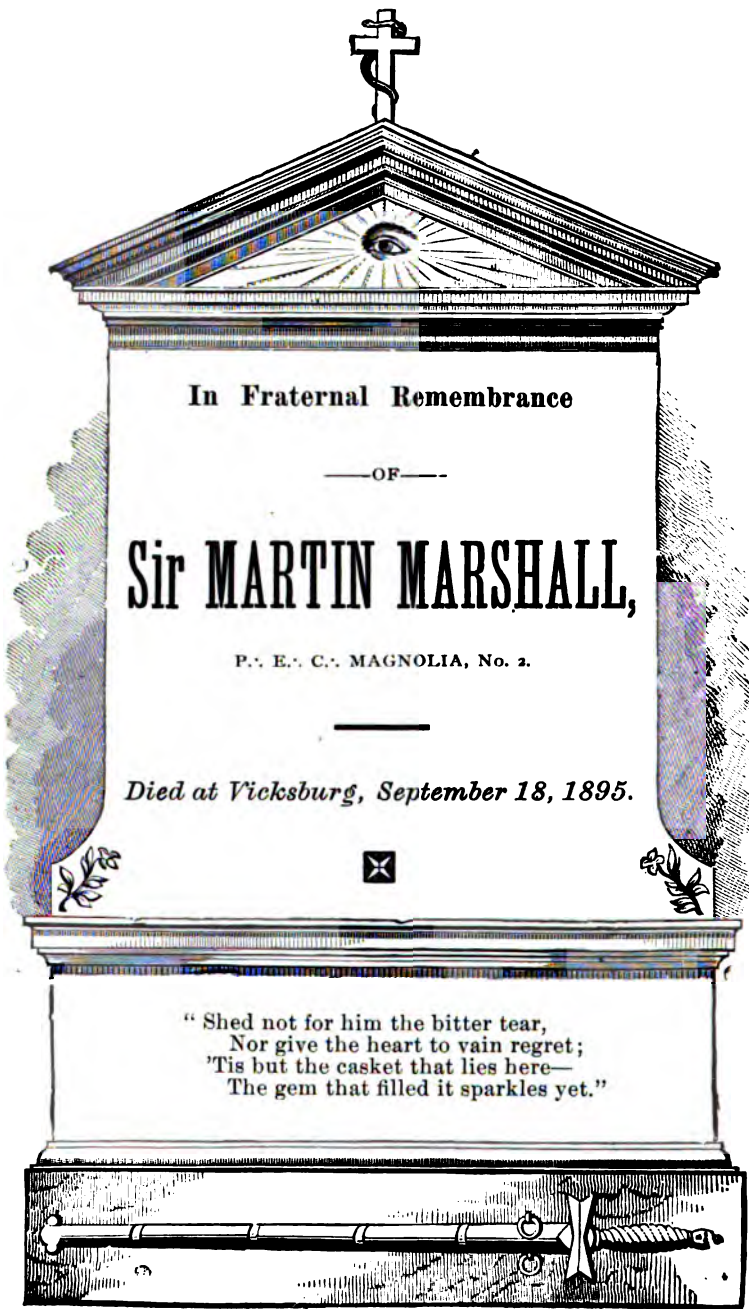
Sir Knight Fant was a zealous Templar, and had he been able to attend the Grand Conclaves regularly his fitness for the highest station would have been duly recognized and expressed. He served the Craft as Junior Grand Warden in 1871, as Senior Grand Warden in 1872, and as Deputy Grand Master in 1874. And so, after a career of great usefulness and honor, and with ties as tender as were ever severed by the relentless messenger, the tidings came from Holly Springs, on the 21st of August, 1895, that

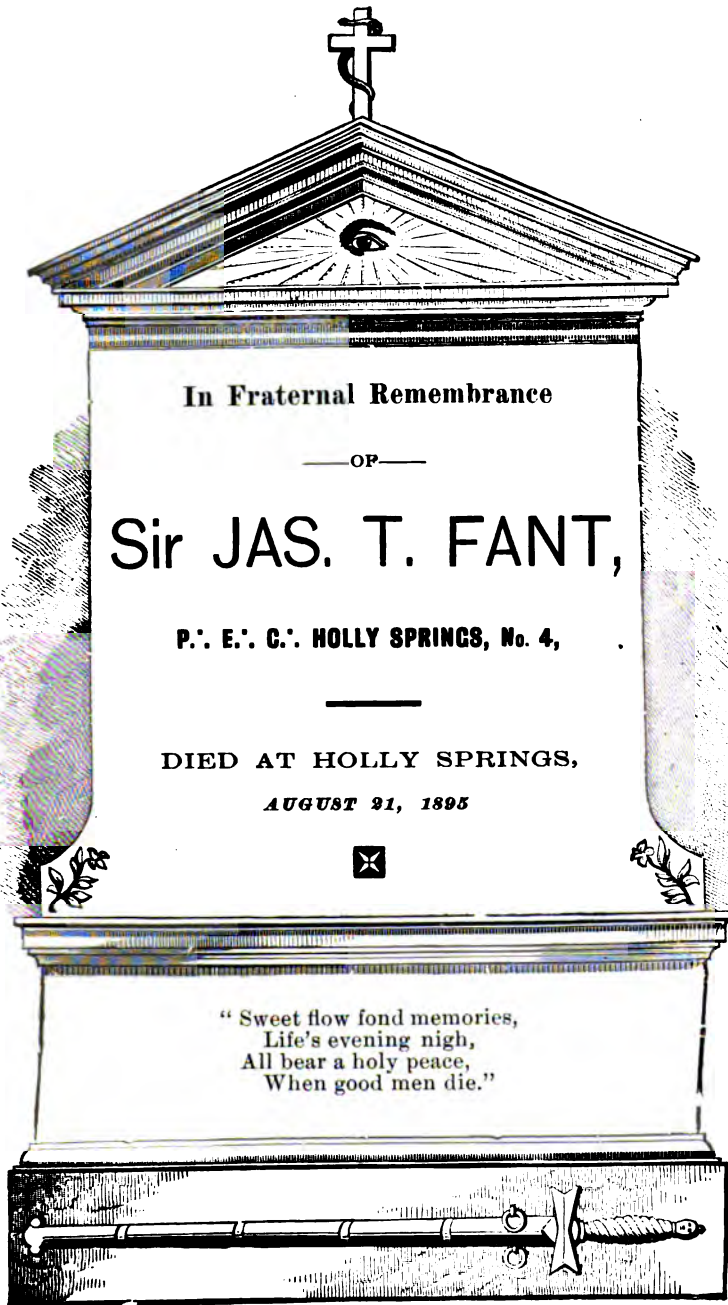
"God's finger touched him and he slept."

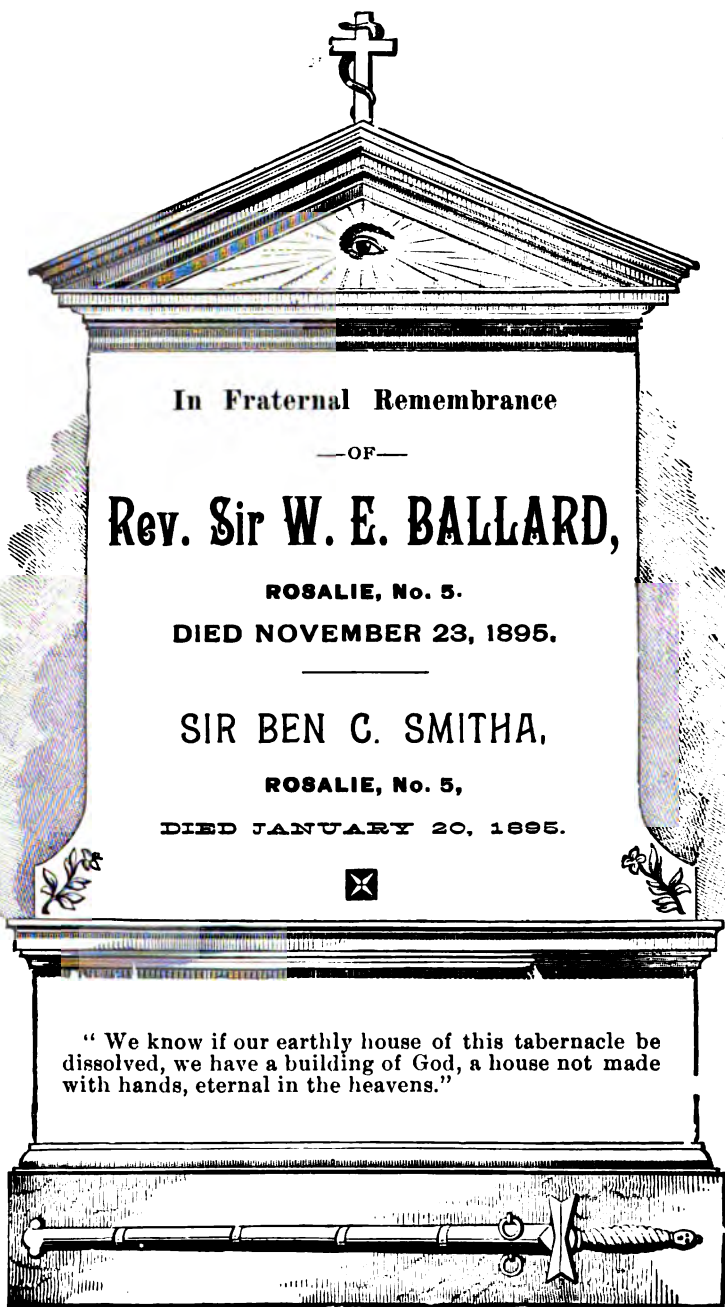
J. L. P.

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In Fraternal Remembrance

—OF—

**Rev. Sir W. E. BALLARD,**

**ROSALIE, No. 5.**

**DIED NOVEMBER 23, 1895.**

**SIR BEN C. SMITHA,**

**ROSALIE, No. 5,**

**DIED JANUARY 20, 1895.**



"We know if our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."





In Fraternal Remembrance

—OF—

**Sir WELLS T. HARRELL,**

MISSISSIPPI, No. 1,

DIED APRIL 9, 1895.

**Sir CHARLES PEINE,**

MAGNOLIA, No 2,

Died March 14, 1895.

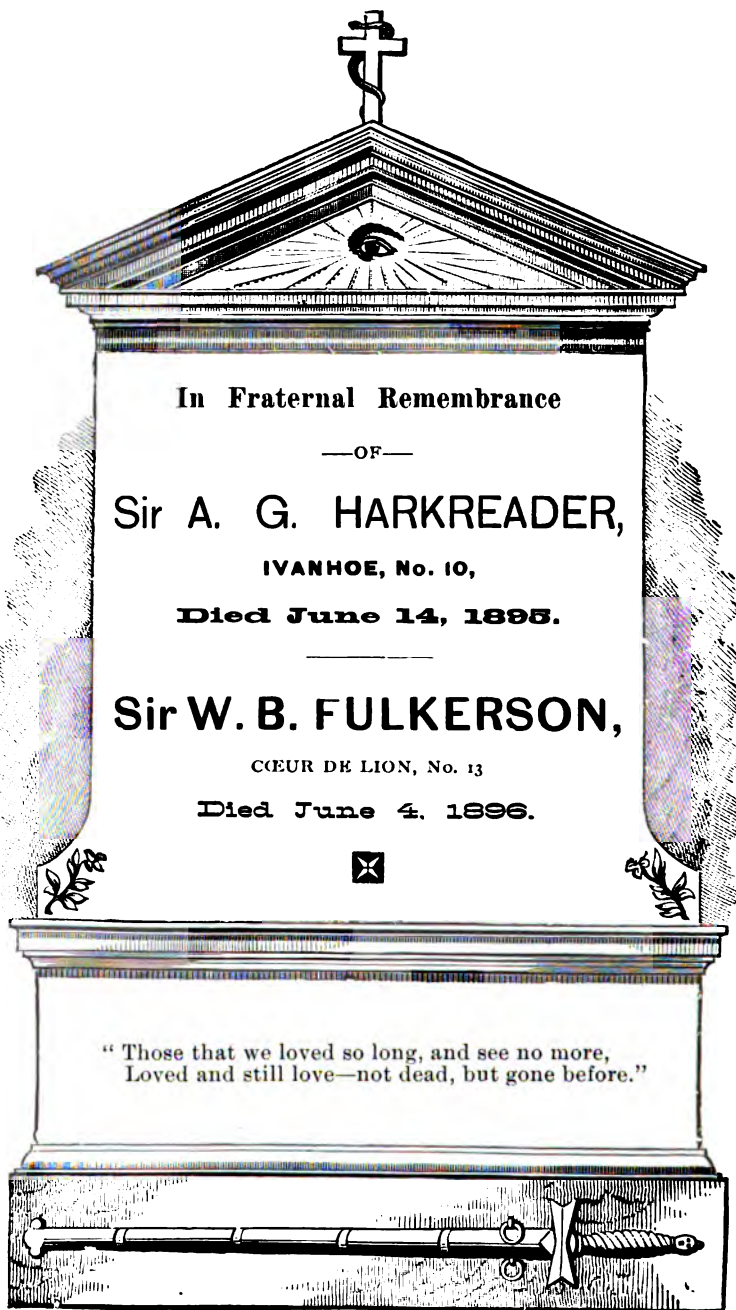
**Sir W. E. HARRIS,**

CYRENE, No. 9,

Died October 19, 1895.



— “Over the river one by one,  
The storm of life past, its work all done,  
These severed links in one golden chain,  
In his dear presence will meet again.”



In Fraternal Remembrance

—OF—

Sir A. G. HARKREADER,

IVANHOE, No. 10,

Died June 14, 1895.

Sir W. B. FULKERSON,

CŒUR DE LION, No. 13

Died June 4, 1896.



"Those that we loved so long, and see no more,  
Loved and still love—not dead, but gone before."

# Returns of Subordinate Commanderies

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 27, 1895.

(INCLUDING OFFICERS FOR 1896.)

## MISSISSIPPI COMMANDERY, No. 1—JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1896.

A. G. Lewis.....	E. C.	H. M. Taylor, P. E. C.....	Treasurer.
W. B. Taylor.....	Gen'o.	W. J. Brown, Jr., P. E. C.....	Recorder.
Richard Griffith.....	C. G.	John McGill, P. E. C.....	St. Bearer.
J. L. Power, P. E. C.....	Prelate	George Lemon.....	Sw. Bearer.
R. H. Henry.....	S. W.	B. C. Lemly.....	Warder.
A. J. Chapman.....	J. W.	John M. Cain.....	C. of Guard

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—John A. Webb, R. F. McGill.

MEMBERS—D. P. Porter, Nolan Stewart, Robert Bradley, W. J. Ferguson, H. M. Folkes, George T. Gracey, B. W. Griffith, Wirt Johnston, James M. McKee, W. W. Moore, W. S. Pittman, J. W. Power, O. B. Quin, R. V. Rachford, W. W. Robertson, J. F. Robinson, W. H. Tegar-den—31.

KNIGHTED—H. M. Folkes, Richard Griffith.

DIED—Wells C. Harrell, April 9, 1895.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—Oliver Clifton.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$41 00

## MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY, No. 2—VICKSBURG, WARREN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 1st Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1896.

James K. Moore.....	E. C.	H. W. Bowen.....	Treasurer.
A. M. Lee.....	Gen'o.	A. M. Paxton.....	Recorder.
C. H. Fife.....	C. G.	R. B. Chapman.....	St. Bearer.
W. G. Paxton, P. E. C.....	Prelate	E. Bonelli.....	Sw. Bearer.
John W. Powell, P. E. C.....	S. W.	Albert Arnold.....	Warder.
Frederic Speed, P. E. C.....	J. W.	Jno. Schlottman, P. E. C.....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—J. J. Hayes.

MEMBERS—E. C. Carroll, Jos. Biedenharn, Wm. Chamberlin, S. H. Childress, Wm. Curphey, R. L. Dunn, C. W. Gibson, J. M. Gibson, W. E. Gilmore, C. E. Gore, M. O. Gorman, C. E. Grant, G. L. Gurley, I. Hardy, A. L. Jaquith, W. E. Kiesker, W. G. Kiger, J. H. King, B. F. Laurence, W. W. Lord, W. J. McKee, J. D. Miles, Charles Pare, M. R. Payne, J. W. Parkhurst, J. C. Prichett, C. A. Rice, J. D. Smith, M. F. Smith, W. J. Smith, Wm. Stanton, Lee Richardson, P. R. Starr, L. J.

Thomas, J. B. White, J. C. White, A. L. Williams, H. Y. Wilson, C. G. Wright—52.

KNIGHTED—Charles H. Fife, Albert M. Lea, H. Y. Wilson.

REINSTATED—J. W. Parkhurst.

DIMITTED—F. M. Andrews, T. G. Birchett, T. R. Day, J. W. James.

DIED—Martin Marshall, September 9, 1895; Charles Peine, March 14, 1895.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—W. W. Campbell, J. B. Hamilton, P. Matherson, S. A. Woolford.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$69 00

#### HOLLY SPRINGS COMMANDERY, No. 4—HOLLY SPRINGS, MARSHALL COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Monday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1896.

S. H. Pryor.....	E. C.	R. A. McWilliams.....	Treasurer.
W. S. Hill.....	Gen'o.	L. B. Mosby, P. E. C.....	Recorder.
W. B. Bradbury.....	C. G.	S. D. Hamilton.....	St. Bearer.
J. C. Sheets.....	Prelate.	J. P. Alvis.....	Sw. Bearer.
C. F. Popham.....	S. W.	H. M. Leach, P. E. C.....	Warder.
A. B. McCrosky.....	J. W.	J. Y. Leach.....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—G. C. Myers.

MEMBERS—J. J. Brooks, H. D. Campbell, W. A. Heard, J. K. Horton, B. T. Kimbrough, T. W. Lewis, J. H. Morgan, J. W. Stephenson, J. L. Wilson—22.

DIED—J. T. Fant, P. E. C., August 21.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—J. E. Aiken, R. C. Leland.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$22 00

#### ROSALIE COMMANDERY No. 5—NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 1st Saturday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1896.

J. Foggo Dixon.....	E. C.	George W. Koontz.....	Treasurer.
L. E. Hildreth.....	Gen'o.	Charles F. Merrick.....	Recorder.
M. Beltzhoover.....	C. G.	Martin Neiheysel.....	St. Bearer.
Charles Morris.....	Prelate.	Walter Rutherford.....	Sw. Bearer.
Wm. C. Hathcox.....	S. W.	Wm. G. Benbrook, P. E. C.....	Warder.
John Conner.....	J. W.	Charles M. Sawyer.....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—E. G. DeLap, P. G. C., C. T. Chamberlain, John A. Dicks, F. S. Shaw, J. C. French, P. G. C., G. J. Bahin.

MEMBERS—T. Jeff Adams, W. H. Aikman, Samuel D. Baker, Geo. M. Brown, James A. Clinton, L. P. Conner, Jr., Wm. L. Davis, Aug. Day, C. F. Farrar, J. S. Fleming, A. H. Foster, J. S. Gaynor, E. J. Guice, W. H. Hendrick, S. P. Hornsby, W. B. Irvine, W. J. Kaiser, H. L. Klapp, R. F. Learned, H. C. Norman, T. Q. Munce, S. McDowell, C. H. McIlwaine, P. C. McCormick, R. Lee Parker, Jacob Peebles, Samuel Pennywit, J. J. Proby, Frank L. Rumble, M. A. Tyer, E. J. Van Court, Ben D. Watkins, J. S. York, W. G. McNair—52.

KNIGHTED—P. C. McCormick.

REINSTATED—Ben D. Watkins, W. H. Aikman.

DIMITTED—J. B. Scruggs.

DIED—Ben C. Smitha, January 20, 1895; W. E. Ballard, November 23, 1895.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—Wm. Stietenroth.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$56 00

# ST. CYR COMMANDERY No. 6—WATER VALLEY, YALOBUSHA COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Thursday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1896.

G. D. Brown.....	E. C.	Joel Croom, P. E. C.....	Treasurer.
L. W. Deekle.....	Gen'o.	J. B. Pate, P. E. C.....	Recorder.
S. B. Brown, P. E. C.....	C. G.	E. F. Crist.....	St. Bearer.
R. H. Ramsey.....	Prelate.	F. W. Weatherly.....	Sw. Bearer.
D. H. Hallowell.....	S. W.	W. H. Price.....	Warder.
C. E. Romberger.....	J. W.	G. J. Robertson.....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. K. Fulson, P. G. C., H. M. Romberger, P. G. C., I. T. Blount, C. Montgomery, W. C. Shackelford, M. D. L. Stephens.

MEMBERS—W. H. Biles, J. V. Blackmar, W. C. Blount, C. R. Cock, C. H. Campbell, D. M. Diggs, Jno. Flack, J. H. Fulson, Ney Fiser, H. Gibbons, James T. Goodwin, H. A. Gant, W. A. Hadaway, Frank L. Hope, J. D. Haile, F. B. Herron, James H. Johnson, J. W. Jordan, Jno. Kirby, J. S. Kettle, Alex. Kennedy, J. L. Kirby, J. T. Lay, R. C. Leland, W. E. Moring, J. W. McCorkle, R. N. Owens, D. C. Powell, J. B. Rogers, B. R. Scott, R. Spearman, A. T. Smith, W. F. Shoffner, R. A. Steigler, W. D. Shell, T. F. Trainer, W. C. Winters, John Wright, Edwin Wright, T. H. Walker—58.

KNIGHTED—W. C. Blount, D. M. Diggs, Ney Fiser, J. W. Jordan, J. L. Kirby, W. F. Shoffner, R. A. Steigler, W. D. Shell.

REINSTATED—R. N. Owens.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$98 00

# DEMOLOY COMMANDERY No. 8—COLUMBUS, LOWNDES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Friday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1896.

C. L. Lincoln, P. E. C.....	E. C.	M. A. Franklin.....	Treasurer.
B. A. Vaughan, P. E. C., P. G. C.....	Gen'o.	C. W. Mills.....	Recorder.
B. A. Weaver.....	C. G.	J. W. Gardner.....	St. Bearer.
G. W. Cox, P. E. C., P. G. C.....	Prelate.	E. S. Moore.....	Sw. Bearer.
H. M. Waddell.....	S. W.	J. P. Stansell.....	Warder.
T. B. Franklin.....	J. W.	D. S. McClanahan.....	C. of Guard.

MEMBERS—J. S. Billups, Willis Banks, Geo. G. Banks, C. C. Buder, C. E. Boykin, N. L. Davis, J. M. Easton, J. D. Guyton, J. T. Harrison, W. R. Harrington, R. F. Matthews, Chas. G. McGee, W. C. McCullar, H. Osborne, H. C. Powers, W. D. Prowell, J. H. Stevens, W. E. Warring, G. B. Wilmot, W. W. Westmoreland, H. M. Teasdale—33.

KNIGHTED—C. E. Boykin.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$38 00

## CYRENE COMMANDERY No. 9—MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Thursday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1896.

J. H. Wright, P. E. C.....	E. C.	B. V. White.....	Treasurer.
O. A. Harrison.....	Gen'o.	H. C. Smith.....	Recorder.
E. J. Martin.....	C. G.	Charley Elmore.....	St. Bearer.
Rev. J. E. Jones.....	Prelate.	F. E. Smith.....	Sw. Bearer.
J. M. Buchanan, P. E. C.....	S. W.	A. J. Peck.....	Warder.
W. H. Howard.....	J. W.	B. F. Parker.....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. R. McIntosh, G. Smallshaf, Rev. D. B. Waddell.

MEMBERS—J. C. Andrews, F. W. Brooks, P. E. Blalock, W. E. Baskin, W. D. Cameron, J. W. Collins, T. C. Carter, C. C. Coffee, F. H. Crane, E. E. Clement, Joseph Eaken, C. S. Eastman, C. L. Gaston, W. S. Harris, T. R. Harrison, J. S. Houston, T. B. Holloman, C. R. Hoge, W. B. Harberson, L. H. Hulse, J. T. Iglehart, W. N. Jones, John Kamper, E. B. Keeling, W. F. Kennedy, A. A. Kincannon, T. B. Lamb, T. C. Lyle, I. A. Mooser, Rev. Irvin Miller, Butler McClanahan, C. C. Miller, C. W. Morgan, C. E. Newcomer, J. H. Neville, D. A. Ray, C. M. Rubush, W. B. Rogers, A. J. Russell, J. R. Smith, J. L. Spinks, S. A. Scruggs, J. H. Short, M. J. Thompson, Rev. Ebenezer Thompson, J. A. Treadaway, J. B. Watts, C. G. Westbrook, T. L. Wainwright, M. W. Woodbury, S. E. Wilson, R. J. Wright—67.

HONORARY MEMBER—W. E. Keller, C. S. Storkweather.

KNIGHTED—W. E. Baskin, F. H. Crane, E. E. Clement, W. B. Harberson, A. A. Kincannon, C. W. Morgan, A. J. Russell, R. J. Wright, J. A. Treadaway, T. E. Smith.

AFFILIATED—Ebenezer Thompson, W. N. Jones, L. H. Hulse.

REINSTATED—C. C. Miller.

DIED—R. E. Harris, October 19.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—J. R. Alexander, W. R. Woods. (Suspended by Meridian Lodge No. 8.)

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$117 00

## IVANHOE COMMANDERY No. 10—OKOLONA, CHICKASAW COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Thursday after 2d Wednesday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1896.

W. M. Buchanan.....	E. C.	T. W. Williams.....	Treasurer.
J. F. Hodges.....	Gen'o.	W. J. Stockett.....	Recorder.
J. W. Keyes.....	C. G.	J. T. Harris.....	St. Bearer.
James Gordon.....	Prelate.	R. M. Sadler.....	Sw. Bearer.
B. B. Fitzpatrick.....	S. W.	W. I. Harrill.....	Warder.
W. H. Griffin.....	J. W.	G. W. Anglin.....	C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C., E. M. Walker, P. G. C., P. M. Savery, P. G. C., N. G. Augustus, P. C. C.

MEMBERS—G. Ligon, J. M. Dodds, W. B. Barker, C. W. Bolton, W. L. Burnett, R. H. Collins, W. J. Curtis, J. M. Davis, J. T. Davis, G. D. Dillard, D. H. Goff, C. B. Hood, W. C. Harris, J. T. Harper, B. McCuller, L. B. McCuller, J. Seale, B. A. P. Selman, J. M. Trice, W. X. Wilson, E. C. Bolton, T. E. Cannon, H. W. Hunter, J. L. Finley, W. A. Cantz, G. S. Henderson, W. J. Lacey, J. Q. Robins, J. S. Cobb—46.

DIED—A. G. Harkreader, June 14, 1895.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$46 00

**CEUR DE LION COMMANDERY, No. 13—PORT GIBSON, CLAIBORNE COUNTY.**

Regular Conclave 1st Wednesday of each month.

F. H. Foote.....	E. C.	.....	Treasurer.
Stephen Thrasher.....	Gen'o.	.....	Recorder.
R. A. Owen.....	C. G.	John W. Andrews.....	St. Bearer.
J. A. B. Jones.....	Prelate.	A. Segar.....	Sw. Bearer.
A. K. Burnet.....	S. W.	W. B. Lewis.....	Warder.
J. H. Gordon.....	J. W.		

DIED—N. S. Walker, P. G. C., August 12, 1895; W. B. Fulkerson, June 4, 1895.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$9 00

**DELTA COMMANDERY, No. 16—GREENVILLE, WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

Regular Conclave 4th Tuesday of each month.

(Report for 1894.)

William Starling.....	E. C.	John P. Finlay.....	Treasurer.
E. N. Thomas.....	Gen'o.	Dan. B. Head.....	Recorder.
W. R. Trigg.....	C. G.	R. M. Standifer.....	St. Bearer.
William Cross.....	Prelate.	Chas. W. Dudley.....	Sw. Bearer.
Stevenson Archer.....	S. W.	J. A. Randolph.....	Warder.
R. L. Clack.....	J. W.	Charles N. Bell.....	C. of Guard.

MEMBERS—George E. Billingsley, L. Bratson, W. L. Clack, King Dewart, S. W. Ferguson, P. G. C., W. G. Jaquess, John G. Jones, C. H. Smith—20.

Dues to Grand Commandery, estimated.....\$20 00

**ABERDEEN COMMANDERY, No. 17—ABERDEEN, MONROE COUNTY.**

Regular Conclave 4th Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1896.

A. A. Posey.....	E. C.	J. W. Eckford.....	Treasurer.
O. L. McKay.....	Gen'o.	J. L. Shell.....	Recorder.
G. S. Clopton.....	C. G.	W. A. Charping.....	St. Bearer.
T. B. Holmes.....	Prelate.	E. W. Holmes.....	Sw. Bearer.
L. G. Nisbet.....	S. W.	W. H. Clifton.....	Warder.
J. J. McDonald.....	J. W.	Willis Rucket.....	C. of Guard.

PART EMINENT COMMANDERS—F. P. Jenkins, W. G. Sykes, W. B. Walker.

MEMBERS—S. H. Berg, J. A. Bowen, J. C. Brown, H. Campbell, C. W. Gibson, W. Lindamood, V. M. Moore, J. A. Mayfield, A. J. Smith, W. F. Thomas, Edgar Wilson—26.

KNIGHTED—W. H. Clifton.

EXPELLED—A. T. Aikin, in Blue Lodge, violation, saloon-keeping ordinance.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—E. G. Smith.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$31 00

## ST. ELMO, No. 18—BROOKHAVEN, LINCOLN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Friday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1896.

J. E. Seavey.....	E. C.	H. K. Hill .....	Treasurer.
G. C. Hoskins .....	Gen'o.	Charles Heuck, Jr .....	Recorder.
E. McCormick. ....	C. G.	E. H. Easterling.....	St. Bearer.
W. H. Seavey.....	Prelate.	A. E. Morton .....	Sw. Bearer.
C. E. Batley.....	S. W.	W. F. Parsons.....	Warder.
C. E. Grafton .....	J. W.	Charles Heuck, Sr.....	C. of Guard.

MEMBERS—F. W. Beall, Lee O. Bridewell, J. W. Elliott, D. D. Ewing, N. Gossner, J. A. Hoskins, F. M. Lee, H. Myers, A. E. Maxwell, E. M. Mason, H. M. McColgan, M. Ryals, W. R. Simmons, J. B. Truman, J. B. Taraney, F. O. Watkins, A. J. Wentworth, W. L. Wallace—30.

KNIGHTED —F. W. Beall, Lee O. Bridewell, J. W. Elliott, F. M. Lee, E. M. Mason, W. R. Simmons, N. L. Wallace.

Dues to Grand Commandery..... \$58 00

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For Summary of Returns, see tabulated statement in Report of Grand Recorder, page 15.



# Report on Fraternal Correspondence.

## OPENING CHORUS.

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI :

I have the honor to present herewith my Sixteenth Annual Report on Correspondence, in which the transactions of the following Templar Governing Bodies have such consideration as we were able to give them :

Alabama .....	1895	Arizona.....	1895
Arkansas .....	1895	California.....	1895
Connecticut .....	1895	Colorado .....	1895
Canada .....	1895	Georgia.....	1895
Indiana .....	1895	Iowa.....	1895
Illinois .....	1895	Kansas .....	1895
Louisiana.....	1895	Missouri .....	1895
Massachusetts and R. Island ..	1894	Maryland .....	1894
Maine .....	1895	Minnesota .....	1895
Michigan .....	1895	Montana.....	1895
North Carolina .....	1895	Nebraska.....	1895
North Dakota.....	1895	New Jersey .....	1895
New York .....	1895	New Hampshire.....	1895
Oregon .....	1895	Ohio .....	1895
Pennsylvania .....	1895	South Dakota .....	1895
Tennessee .....	1895	Texas.....	1895
Vermont .....	1895	Virginia.....	1894
West Virginia .....	1895	Washington.....	1895
Wisconsin.....	1895		

Without further preface or comment, we move immediately upon the works of the Alabamians :

### ALABAMA—1895.

Thirty-Fifth Annual at Mobile, May 8th. Present : R. E. Sir Chas. Wheelock, Grand Commander; E. Sir William B. Phillips, Grand Recorder; six P. G. Commanders, and the Representatives of nine Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a resume of his official acts and deliverances, much of it in the shape of General and Special Orders, on subjects of local import only. He reports the Order in a healthy and peaceful condition. His dispensing power was sparingly exercised and only for legitimate purposes. Members of his staff make reports of inspection and visitation.

We find the following in reference to an old and valued friend of many of us, all of whom will rejoice to hear of him, and that his worth is recognized abroad :

JAMES T. MEADE.

Sir William B. Phillips, Commander of Cyrene Commandery No. 10, presented a petition from said Commandery, praying the Grand Commandery of Alabama to elect James T. Meade, Past Grand Commander of Mississippi, to honorary membership in this Grand Commandery, he having affiliated with Cyrene Commandery No. 10, at Birmingham, and thereby lost his rank in his old jurisdiction.

All of which was done, and Sir Meade is now an honorary P. G. Commander of the Grand Commandery of Alabama.

The total membership is 376—a gain of 8.

The Correspondence is the work of our good brother, George F. Moore, covers thirty-eight pages, and notices what strikes him as deserving of that honor, in the doings of most of the Templar families, Mississippi for '94 among the rest. To show you how Bro. George builds his report, we clip the following :

We have an opinion that it is our duty to utilize the space at our command to the best advantage possible. It has appeared to us that the plan of writing our reports in full, eschewing all extended quotations, and presenting a sort of "running commentary," would accomplish this object. This method has been criticised in some quarters. It is our belief that it has not been pleasing, because it compels one to read the report to get at the meaning of the writer. Indeed, one Frater has been frank enough to say that our reports take more time to read than the average reviewer will bestow upon them. This is quite complimentary to us!

Bro. Berry, the able and veteran Reviewer of Maine, says we speak "of having never used the scissors on any volume of proceedings, as if clipping were the only way to make extracts. Charles Lamb's Chinaman thought the only way to have roast pig was to burn a house, but future ages found out the right way, and perhaps he may." Now, Bro. Berry, how unkind of you not to enlighten our ignorance by telling us the right way! And to put us off to future ages!

We have had a little experience as to "extracts." We have set type, have done some newspaper work, and have even published a book or two, but we have not as yet "caught on" to the esoteric method of copying without clipping that Bro. Berry uses.

But our dear Frater's grim and gruesome story (copied from Lamb without clipping) in which he covertly likens us to the Celestial who burned the house to roast the pig, is really too overpowering in the way of an illustration. There are those who are thus gifted with the ability to say *such* pleasant and agreeable things. We will not venture any tilt with "Sir Launcelot," for we are mindful of what Bro. Elgin, of Texas, says, *i. e.* "we don't accuse Sir Knight Berry of being effeminate, but he is like a woman in that he will have the last word.

Our brother's defense of his plan don't amount to shucks, and we don't like the plan at all. The fact that he has published a book or two is what ails him in this case. Come over and "jine" the large majority who write these reports "according to gunter." We are bound to admit, however, that if one reads Bro. Moore's report through, he will

know much more than when he began of the trend of thought, on quite a number of lines, among the leading minds of Templar Masonry.

We copy his closing with the earnest prayer that the Lord will restore his health, and prolong his life and his usefulness for many years.

TO THE GUILD.

We sincerely thank each Correspondent who has spoken kindly of our former Reports. Physical suffering and constant labor have been our companions during the preparation of this incomplete essay, which is in the nature of an experiment.

More than once since our Report was submitted to the Grand Commandery in 1894, did we think that we had reached the Bridge over the River. Clearly did we realize the fact that we must cross it alone—that no one could accompany us. Did we have the password that would be recognized “over there?” Such reflections under such circumstances are apt to soften our natures and make us more tolerant. We have always endeavored to represent the views and opinions of others fairly and correctly, and are sure that we have not conscientiously erred in this respect. We have sometimes indulged in pleasantry, but have never directed it against any *person*, but always against some language, action, practice, or custom.

With sentiments of respect and esteem for those members of the “Guild” whom we have never seen in the flesh, and with affection for those whom we have been fortunate enough to meet “face to face,” we close this our Eighth Annual Report.

Sir Fletcher J. Cowart is Grand Commander; Sir H. Clay Armstrong, Grand Recorder.

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ARIZONA—1894.

Second Annual was held in the city of Phoenix, March 14th. Present: R. E. Sir. Geo. James Roskrige, Grand Commander, and representatives of three Subordinate Commanderies.

The address covers three pages and contains nothing of peculiar significance to outsiders, as it is made up, mostly, of general and special orders and correspondence local in reference. He reports the Order as “fairly, but not unduly prosperous,” indulging the hope “that we have gained in quality all that we fall short in quantity.”

He commissioned three Grand Representatives, viz.: Maryland, Kansas and Tennessee. We suggest the propriety of attending to this important matter, so far as Mississippi is concerned, not only in regard to Arizona but wherever a vacancy exists.

The proceedings are routine and local.

Total membership 103.

There is no report on Correspondence. They have a Committee, however, and we will look for one next time.

With best wishes for the rapid and healthy growth of our young sister and best regards for each of the brethren in that part of our glorious country, we say good-bye for this time.

R. E. Sir Alex. G. Oliver is Grand Commander ; R. E. Sir Geo. J. Roskrue, Grand Recorder ; R. E. Sir Arch. J. Sampson, Chairman Correspondence.

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ARKANSAS—1895.

Twenty-third Annual at Pine Bluff, April 16th. R. E. Sir William Moore Mellitte is Grand Commander ; E. Sir Jas. Austin Henry, Grand Recorder. Nine out of thirteen Subordinate Commanderies were represented. Several Past Grand Commanders, Past Eminent Commanders, and Representatives from eleven Grand Commanderies—among the rest, Bro. Taylor for Mississippi.

The Grand Commander's address, though brief, is an excellent one. We copy his opening in full and commend it to you as being excellent and profitable reading.

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Arkansas :

The assembling of this Grand Commandery to-night presents to our minds a fact which doubtless we would all prefer could be forgotten. It emphasizes what we have always known, that as we near the end, where is to be found the hope of every true Templar, the years grow shorter, and the days and hours are as the fleeting shadow. In boyhood our days were never ending. We longed for them to pass, so that we could enter upon life's work. Then we could not understand why it was necessary for boys to hold a place in the scale of human existence. With youth came bright hopes and happy anticipations of the real life we were approaching, and yet the years were slow in bringing to us the commissions which entitled us to be called men. But we are all there now, traveling upon the main highway of life that leads to the end. Some are a little further along than others, but the direction is the same, and the mileposts are frequent enough to be objects of especial interest to all of us. While we hold the Templar's faith, which assures us a glorious reception by our Great Captain, we would all be willing to take the other end of the road and travel back to the scenes of our lisping childhood. The faithful Templar loves life, because it was given him to enjoy, and is attractive. But he does not fear death. He feels that it is good for him to live, and enjoy the legitimate pleasures which an allwise Father has provided for him. He loves the good, the true, and the beautiful in life, and abhors that which is corrupt, wicked, degrading and selfish. A man is not a Knight Templar, simply because he wears the sacred emblem of the Order upon his watch chain, any more than a pirate ship belongs to us, because she floats our standard of liberty. In other words it takes more than our ceremony, and the watch charm, to make a true Soldier of the Cross. The idea that all there is in Templarism is to be found in the uniform, and on dress parade, must be banished or we perish. The things which must perpetuate the institution are its sublime teachings which are everlasting, and not the outer coverings and ceremonies which will decay and be forgotten. A Knight Templar must be an enemy to vice, in all its forms, and it will be found that whenever there is a reconciliation between the two the Templar is no more. He may hold his sword, but he has dishonored it by drawing it in other than a just and virtuous cause. He may be able to go through the ceremonies of the Order, but they are to him the utterance of vain words, without meaning or import.

Let us dear fraters not forget our vows. Let us cling to the cross as our only hope, and be willing at all times and under all circumstances to stand up and acknowledge, and proclaim, our entire dependence upon our Saviour and Redeemer.

I said at the beginning of this address, that this meeting brought to our minds an unwelcome thought. It is the Templar milestone that marks the passing away of another year. Yet the pleasure we feel in taking each other by the hand, receiving and giving words of welcome, and of participating in the hearty good fellowship which abounds, soon drives away every depressing recollection, and fills our hearts with love and gratitude for the privileges vouchsafed to us. These annual reunions are glorious occasions. Here we meet our old friends, and join hands with new ones. Here reminiscences of other conclaves are recounted, and memories of the past instilled into the minds of those who have until now been strangers among us. Here we learn how much there is in the word "friendship," and how it brightens the lives of all of us. The man who is a stranger to its ties is above all others to be pitied. True friendship can come only from a pure heart. It cannot be a companion with selfishness and hypocrisy, and deceit is its sworn enemy. Let us understand that we are here to enjoy the God-given privilege of mingling together as friends and brothers, and strengthening the ties of fraternal love that bind us together.

Let not our intercourse be alone of pleasure and benefit to ourselves, but let it be the means of impressing upon our minds the great truth, that we are to live in love and charity with all mankind. When we can say that all this has been accomplished we may rest assured that our coming together has not been in vain, and that as Templars we are laboring in a just and virtuous cause.

In all of which we concur most heartily.

Under the head of "Decisions" we find the following, which contains the gist of the matter and will be readily understood :

When a Subordinate Commandery refuses to discipline a Sir Knight who wilfully disobeys the summons of his Commander, it sanctions a course of conduct which will speedily, and effectually, destroy the efficiency and usefulness of the Order. A continued and persistent refusal of a Subordinate Commandery to punish a Sir Knight for thus offending would, in my opinion, be sufficient grounds for arresting charter.

Here is something suited to the case that called forth our Fred's famous Law Report last year :

The question was submitted to me as to whether the suspension of a Sir Knight by his Lodge and Chapter for non-payment of dues affected his standing in his Commandery, and I held that it did not.

An anomalous condition of affairs this ruling will create. A member of a Lodge or Chapter, in good standing must sit in another Masonic Body, with one with whom he is debarred from conversing upon Masonic matters! There is but little of the eternal fitness of things in all this. If suspension, for *any* cause, does not affect the standing of a member in the Order from which he is suspended, where does the punishment come in? And if I am under suspension in one Masonic Body, what rights have I under the terms of my Masonic obligation in *any other*? *None at all!*

The proceedings are local. Order in good shape.

The Correspondence covers 72 pages of the pamphlet, is the work of Sir Fred. J. H. Ricker, and considers the transactions of thirty-eight Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1893, getting three and a half pages. He clips quite a slice of the Law Report, and remarks:

The sentiment herein expressed is good; but it is very questionable with the writer as to the expediency of the resulting action, for if, as Knights Templar, we are subordinate to the Grand Encampment, are we not, as Knights Templar, bound to follow and obey its Decrees and Edicts, no matter what our own individual feelings and ideas may be on the question?

To his query we answer with an emphatic No! Our first duty is to our Blue Lodge obligations, and anything that conflicts with them is not binding upon us, and we will not obey or respect it. We regret that the *printer* spelled our brother's name wrong. *We* had it "i."

The report is a good one, although our brother's ideas, above set forth, are unorthodox and "won't wash."

R. E. Sir George P. Taylor is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporter as before.

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#### CALIFORNIA—1895.

Thirty-Seventh Annual at San Francisco, April 18th. There were present R. E. Sir Frank W. Sumner, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Thomas H. Caswell, Grand Recorder; a majority of the staff, thirteen Grand Commanders, a lot of Grand Representatives, and the officers of thirty-one Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is quite long, but is an elegant paper. He opens as follows:

To the Grand Commandery of California:

Permit me on behalf of this jurisdiction to present the courteous salutations of the Sir Knights of California. From every quarter come words expressing the warmest love and obedience and a firm belief that your counsels will be marked at this assembly as they have been during the past conclaves, with wisdom, moderation and justice.

In compliance with the statutes of our Order, and by the gracious favor of Almighty God, we meet, at this time, in Annual Conclave to review the events which have occurred within our Order since April, 1894. We are to consider the past, from judgment on the present and promulgate laws for the future. May your deliberations be marked with a high sense of your duties, and remember that this Order of Knighthood can influence for the better the heart of the individual, the welfare of the State and the future of the country. Let the reverent thoughts which arose when we assembled around our altar continue throughout this conclave and give us strength and wisdom to accomplish our labors in a manner which may redound to the credit of our Order.

His decisions were quite numerous and in accord with the laws of the Grand Encampment, which body, in our opinion, has no more right to legislate for Commanderies under the jurisdiction of Grand Commanderies than the devil has to pose as a saint. The domestic economy of

Subordinate Commanderies of a Grand Commandery, should always remain under the complete control of the Grand Commandery that issued its charter without any outside interference from any source. Under "Condition of the Order" in that State, the following:

#### CONDITION OF THE ORDER.

I submit tabulated statements made up from reports sent to me by the Commanderies and these which I have received from the Inspectors, which show the condition of this Order of Knighthood in the jurisdiction of California. From the data obtained I can speak accurately as to the prosperity of the Order.

The balance sheet of the Order is as follows:

Cash on hand .....	\$ 10,551 17
Due from members .....	8,112 53
Investments .....	53,296 12
Furniture and paraphernalia .....	29,408 04
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$101,267 68</b>
<b>Less indebtedness .....</b>	<b>13,341 10</b>
<b>Net assets of Subordinate Commanderies .....</b>	<b>\$ 88,026 58</b>
<b>Net assets of the Grand Commandery .....</b>	<b>24,935 75</b>
<b>Total assets of the jurisdiction .....</b>	<b>\$112,962 33</b>

The amount due from members is equal to \$2.82 per capita, and shows that the dues of the Commanderies have been fairly well collected. The reports received from three Commanderies showed too high a percentage of delinquent members, and I am assured since the reports were sent in that this delinquency has been remedied.

The indebtedness of a Commandery is, as a rule, for money advanced by a Treasurer, investments in a Masonic Hall, or business of a similar nature.

The value of the furniture and paraphernalia shows liberal investments, and that the Commanderies are well supplied with properties necessary to confer the Orders of Knighthood in an accurate manner.

One feature of the report shows that 390 Sir Knights or 13½ per cent. of the number in the jurisdiction are without full uniform. I am inclined to think that the percentage is still greater, as some of the uniforms which are reported as being complete do not include the uniform coat.

Harmony and Templar zeal prevail throughout the jurisdiction.

Here is a proposition which, if generally accepted, would create a revolution in the ranks of the superfluous Grands by making them do something practical:

It has been the custom, in times past, for the Representatives of Grand Jurisdictions to present at our conclaves courteous and complimentary letters or reports from the Grand Bodies from which they received their commissions. We all can appreciate the courteous and Knightly spirit which prompts these expressions of fellowship, but I submit that such reports are of no practical value, as they do not advise of business transacted, laws enacted, or questions decided. In place of such reports I would recommend that the Representatives of the Grand Bodies near this Grand Commandery be instructed to make a report of the transactions of our Grand Conclaves to the respective Grand Records of the jurisdictions represented by them, within two months

after the close of our conclaves, and that the Representatives of the Grand Commandery of California near other Grand Bodies be requested to perform a similar duty, the reports to consider such questions as may arise in relation to jurisprudence, finance, or matters of special interest.

If all these reports were published in the proceedings, as they must be, if we are consistent, the volumes would become ponderous and the "Mutual Ad. Society" would be, necessarily, relegated to the rear. Whether the change would be an improvement, or not, is an open query. We think not.

He has this to say anent the

#### MASONIC HOME.

At the Conclave of 1892 the sum of \$5,000 was appropriated in aid of the Masonic Home. The payments were to be made as required, and up to this time \$1,000 have been paid to the institution. As this Grand Commandery will have an active interest in the Home and an earnest desire for its welfare, I would suggest that this Body request the Board of Directors to make a report showing its condition and the prospects of the future.

And this about "Old Glory," among other things:

#### AMERICAN FLAG.

At the last Triennial I had the honor to command one of the divisions in the Grand Parade. As I sat on my horse waiting for the time when my division was to take up the forward march, I watched that magnificent column of Templars and saw a sight that caused a thrill as if by an electric shock. One of the Commanderies, a superb body of men, was marching in a column of divisions, and over this Commandery floated Old Glory, the emblem of national unity and power. I promised myself that, as soon as possible, my Commandery should march under the stars and stripes on its next parade. Immediately after the return from Denver, specifications were drawn up for two parade flags, which were modeled from the regimental colors of the U. S. Army, and this stand of colors was a Beauseant flag and a United States flag. Two generous ladies, widows of valiant Knights, presented a stand of colors to Golden Gate Commandery No. 16, and the flags were consecrated by solemn and fitting ceremonies on October 30, 1894.

He makes some very sensible remarks in regard to the celebrated "Mystic Shrine," which we would like to copy. Among other things he suggests the propriety of prohibiting their meetings in Masonic halls.

On the whole, the address is first-class in all respects—"All wool and a yard wide."

The proceedings are interesting, but mostly local. Total membership 2,887—a gain of 69.

Bro. Davies is the architect of the Correspondence, which covers about half of the pamphlet. Considers the transactions of 38 Grand Commanderies, among them ones for '94, and is injected right into the middle of the minutes, as usual.

The report is a good one, of course. They employ men of brain in this work in the "Golden State," and they have lots of material on hand from which to draw.



Bro. Davies' review of our pamphlet is full and fraternal. We clip what follows:

The Grand Commandery held devotional exercises in the Methodist Church, and listened to addresses by Bishop Thompson and Sir N. G. Augustus, which were greatly enjoyed by the Sir Knights and their friends.

The Committee on Templar Law, Sir Frederic Speed, Chairman, made a report on the question, "Can a member of a Commandery in this jurisdiction, who is a non-affiliated Master Mason, and who does not contribute to the funds of the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides, be permitted to visit and associate with the members of his Commandery?" This question involves the same principle as the one ruled upon by our Grand Commander, Neff, and considered by our Committee on Jurisprudence, and is of so much importance to our jurisdiction that, for the information of the members of the Grand Commandery of California and all Knights Templar, we have incorporated it here in full. It is the question of the hour, and from the distinguished reputation of the committee making the report, will have an important bearing upon the disposition of the matter at issue by the Grand Encampment at the coming triennial session of that body.

We are not advised, but have no idea that the Grand Encampment receded from its usurped position on this subject, or that the body took cognizance of anything so extremely practical and important as this is. Bro. D. has some pleasant words to say of this Committee. We clip the following. He is talking of our criticism of some decisions made by Grand Commander:

He continues: "Another one was that a Commandery could not entertain the petition of an affiliated Royal Arch Mason until he had applied for membership in some Blue Lodge, although he had regularly paid Lodge dues all the time. He adds, "This may be good law in California, but it ain't good sense."

It may not be good sense, Frater DeLap, but that is the fault of our education. We are taught to believe in the Supremacy of the Lodge, and Grand Lodge says "it is the duty of every Master Mason to be a member of some Lodge," and to be in good standing a Master Mason must be affiliated, or at least "try to be." The Grand Commandery affirmed the ruling of the Grand Commander and he did not err therein.

We beg to assure our good Frater that no one is a stronger believer in the supremacy of the Grand Lodge than we are, nor that it is the duty of every Mason that is a Mason, to belong to some Lodge. But suppose "A," who is a good, worthy man and Mason, applies to Lodge B, for affiliation, and "C" who is a member of the Lodge and an egregious ass besides, on personal dislike and prejudice alone, puts in a black ball and thus quenches the desire, as well as the ability of "A" to perform his duty as a Mason, by affiliating. And suppose after this that A in order to, as nearly as he can, perform known duties, contributes annually to the Lodge an amount equal to the annual dues, where is the justice of putting him under the ban, along with the worthless Masonic drone, who neither works nor pays?

This is what we had in our mind when we sat in judgment on the

decision in question. We think the position of the Grand Commandery of California exactly right on the main issue, but there are exceptions to every general rule, and this *should* be one of them.

R.: E.: Edward S. Lippitt is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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CONNECTICUT—1895.

Sixty-Eighth Annual at Minden, March 19th. R.: E.: Sir G. Her-  
rick Wilson Grand Commander, E.: Sir C. Birdsey Grand Recorder.

Fifteen P.: G.: Commanders, 21 Grand Representatives, and the  
Representatives of 11 Subordinate Commanderies were present.

The Grand Commander's address is a short but practical business  
paper. Under "Necrology," he gives a short sketch of the life and mer-  
its of our beloved brother Wheeler, and makes appropriate reference to  
the magnanimous dead of sister jurisdictions.

He issued thirty dispensations—all for proper purposes, except the  
last, which was to one of his Subordinate Commanderies to waive its  
jurisdiction over a candidate in favor of a New York Commandery. We  
hold that matters of this, and similar kind, belong exclusively to the  
Subordinate, and that it is their province unquestioned and unmolested  
to do or not to do, as they may elect.

He dedicated and "*sanctified*" a new Asylum. We note this fact for  
the purpose of remarking that just now and for some time back there  
is and has been a considerable strain on the words "*Sanctify*," "*Sancti-  
fication*," "*Holiness*," "*Second Blessing*," and such, but this is the first  
time we have heard the poor, tired, distorted and abused word used in  
Templar literature. Not that the word used, in the address, is not per-  
fectly proper, because it is, and the sense conveyed there is the one most  
generally intended by its use in God's word, *i. e.*, a setting apart for a  
certain specified purpose. That the inspired writers ever intended to  
teach, by use of the word, the doctrine of what is familiarly known as  
the "*Second Blessing*," is an absurdity.

Some of the "Mutuals" will, no doubt, rise to inquire what a Cor-  
respondence report has to do with the "*Second Blessing*" fad, and we  
are compelled to reply: nothing at all, but the hope that some one  
might raise a row about it and make things a trifle less monotonous,  
induced us to put it in.

The proceedings are local. Order in healthy condition. The Com-  
mittee on Grand Commander's Address have this to say anent the last  
paragraph thereof :

The full meaning of the last paragraph of the Grand Commander's  
Address not being entirely clear to your Committee, we suggest its ref-  
erence to him for revision before publication.

The paragraph that stumped a very intelligent committee, is as follows :

And now Sir Knights, in the name of a Christianity, broad enough to admit all who believe in the liberty of the Gospel, in the name of Him whose spirit impresses us by the potency of his lessons and life; in a belief in the kingdom of heaven come down to us; let us renew our vows to make society more and more perfect as time gives us opportunity.

This is the sort of fix a man gets into when he attempts to shoot off a peroration outside of the usual lines, and should be a warning to our rising generation not to indulge in language in speeches that may be construed to mean two or three different things, according to the predilections or prejudices of the reader or hearer.

The pamphlet is adorned with the faces of Past Grand Commanders Higby, Woodward and Wilson, all of whom are intelligent and good looking, except one, and he would be all right if he did not look so much like our *Phineas*.

The mantle of our good Bro. Wheeler having fallen upon Grand Recorder Birdsey, that R. E. Sir Knight presents an excellent report on Correspondence, in which most of the Templar legislation receives courteous and wise consideration, Mississippi for '94, among the rest. He opens as follows :

Being desirous that the proceedings of the Grand Commandery should not be issued without the usual Correspondence Report, the writer has undertaken the task of its preparation, fully appreciating his inexperience and lack of literary ability, necessary to write a review creditable to the Grand Commandery, amid the galaxy of literary Sir Knights engaged in this work in other jurisdictions. The difficulties of the undertaking are further increased by the lack of time for mature consideration and the necessity of following in the footsteps of so noted a predecessor as our lamented Sir Knight J. K. Wheeler, who for fifteen years has served you and the fraters of other jurisdictions in this direction, with a full course dinner of soup, fish, flesh, fowl and dessert, while the writer can only supply a frugal lunch.

We had never anticipated "laying down the sword" to take up the pen, and we trust you will receive the following with charity, if not in accord with your anticipations or the able and complete reports of previous years.

His review of Mississippi is short, but fraternal. We would like to make more clippings from this report, but Connecticut's space is full.

R. E. Hugh Stirling is Grand Commander; R. E. Eli C. Birdsey, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### COLORADO—1895.

Twentieth Annual at Denver, June 4th. Present: R. E. Sir Wm. D. Todd, Grand Commander, Sir Ed. C. Parmalee, Grand Recorder, sixteen Grand Representatives; and representatives of twenty-two Subordinate Commanderies.

The address was short and confined to local matters in the main. It opens as follows :

Neither my introduction nor my peroration will be lengthy, so that my address, being mainly confined to the actual duties performed and other like necessary information, I am sure will not weary you.

I do not intend to apologize for any of my official sins, either of commission or omission. You all know me, and many of you have known me many years. I have been an active member of the Grand Commandery since it was organized nearly twenty years ago. During that period I have always endeavored so to do my duty as to merit your commendation, and do not, therefore, feel it necessary to more than express the hope that I have not committed any serious errors, and that my shortcomings, whatever they may have been, you have either not discovered or will overlook.

As many of you know, Templarism is strictly and sincerely my religion, and with that idea before me I have endeavored to so shape my performance of duty in every direction.

The Order is in a healthy condition throughout the jurisdiction, and while the increase in membership may not be as great as might have been expected in a Triennial year, we have no cause of complaint.

If we correctly understand the third paragraph of the above, our brother, unless he changes his *religion*, will, undoubtedly, make his bed in hell.

No institution, Masonic or other, human in its creation, will ever save an immortal soul. To accomplish this there is but One Name given in heaven or among men, and that is the Name of Jesus Christ, the righteous. Templarism is all right, as far as it goes, but it is a broken reed on which to depend for salvation.

His dispensations were all for legitimate purposes.

He made but one decision, and that was in accord with common sense.

The proceedings are local. Order in good shape. Total membership 1648—a gain of 22.

Our good Bro. Harper M. Orahoad submitted his fifteenth annual report on Correspondence, in which are found *clippings* from the transactions of 39 Templar Legislatures; Mississippi, for 1894, among the number.

Bro. Orahoad's review of Mississippi is pleasant and fraternal, all the way through, which is appreciated. He quotes liberally from the Non-affiliate Law Report, and arrives at the following sensible conclusion :

The whole matter seems simple enough to us, and can be fully reconciled without any conflict or trouble whatever.

The decision of the Grand Encampment is that mere non-affiliation in Lodge or Chapter does not affect the standing in the Commandery. But anything which affects the standing in the Lodge or Chapter affects the standing of the member in the Commandery.

In Mississippi non-affiliation is made to work a suspension or it may be said, an expulsion from Lodge and Chapter, while it exists and similarly affects the member's standing in the Commandery.

To illustrate, we quote from this report :

The law of the Grand Lodge is that a non-affiliated Master Mason who does not contribute to the funds of the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides "is not entitled to or permitted to receive the rights, benefits and privileges of the Lodge; that is to say, the right to visit and associate with the regular members of the Lodge. \* \* \* The right to move or join in Masonic processions, the right to Masonic burial. (Section 27 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws.) The law of the Grand Chapter is to the same effect. In the construction of this law the Grand Lodge has gone so far as to hold that a dimitted Mason can not be admitted into the Lodge to testify at a trial, but must be treated as a profane.

He quotes our "Conclusion," of last year, as he says "with particular pleasure"—"as we may, unintentionally have made Bro. DeLap's sayings appear worse than we knew he intended."

No need of you taking the trouble, Bro. O., we have never found any fault with your criticisms—they are always courteous and never wound. We copy a part of his conclusion :

And now we submit this, our fifteenth annual report, for your consideration. While it is not long, it represents a large amount of time and work devoted to its preparation.

Our object has been to prepare a report that will interest and instruct our own members and show them at a glance the principal facts, acts and doings in the Templar world during the past year.

It seems to us as each year passes that it is more difficult to prepare a readable report. The questions which have been of vital interest and have been discussed vigorously, and sometimes with not the best of temper, have been decided and disposed of, more or less satisfactorily. There does not seem to be the amount of material to work on that the earlier reporters had to consider. This idea has been expressed in several of the reports we have reviewed, and we notice generally it comes from the older reporters.

It may be, however, that this is more apparent than real. Each year the same old troubles and questions, although it may be in a varied form, come to the new officers, and to them and the members who have not read the reports they are of the same interest that they were to others years ago. So we have given some quotations and commented on some decisions and actions which might seem to be settled, but which we think should be given to show the history of the Order for the year.

It will be noticed that while the reports show the Order everywhere to be in good condition, there is an almost universal complaint of financial trouble and depression, and that the growth of Commanderies, and Chapters and Lodges, too, have been materially affected thereby. Let us hope that the worst has passed, and that the present year will show a more favorable conditions of affairs.

R. E. Sir William W. Rowan, is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent, as before.

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#### CANADA—1895.

Twelfth annual assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada was held in the city of St. John, August 23d.

There were present: M. E. Sir Knight E. E. Sheppard, Supreme

Grand Master, on the Throne, all the Grand Officers, two Past Supreme Grand Masters, and representatives of thirty Subordinates.

The Grand Master's Address is a short but well written *resume* of his administration, which seems to have been successful and satisfactory. He congratulates Great Priory on the increased numerical strength and financial soundness of the Order. "At the end of last year we had 1,273 members and a surplus of \$1,262.41 in the Treasury. At the end of the present year we have 1,368 members, an increase of ninety-five, with \$1,455.71 in the bank." All of which is pleasant reading. Along the line of moralizing he has this to say:

Neither success in adding to our numbers nor swelling the balance in our Treasury can be accepted as anything but an ephemeral evidence of what it is possible for us to accomplish, and yet permit us to go back into an apathetic condition. Unless we do our whole duty to the candidates who present themselves in our Preceptories, unless we make the exemplification of our ritual beautiful and soul-inspiring, our new members will naturally become indifferent and careless and our Chapter rooms deserted. Indeed, you all know that every Novice, Esquire and Knight, must be relied upon to go forth as enthusiastically as a Crusader of old, to struggle for the success of the cross and bring in other chivalric comrades to swell the ranks of the soldiers of the Temple.

That is about the proper size of it, but few, we are sorry to say, reach it. He closes as follows:

May Knights Templar, wheresoe'er dispersed on land or sea, be always united in heart and with one accord zealously devoted to the service of Christ and the fulfillment of the sacred obligations which bind us to our beloved Order and to one another. To show our affection for our Fraters of the Grand Commandery of the United States, who are to meet in Triennial Encampment in Boston next week, I suggest that a fraternal message be sent to M.: E.: Sir Knight Hugh McCurdy, Grand Master.

The Provincial Priors submitted reports of the condition of affairs in their several bailiwicks, some of them being very interesting—that of Bro. Spry, of New Brunswick, especially so—it being a history of the schism between the Great Priory of Canada and the Encampments of St. John and St. Stephen, which pay allegiance to the Grand Priory of Scotland, and have persistently refused to affiliate with the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, as they should do.

In our opinion an heroic dose of non-intercourse and ostracism is the best medicine for this sort of malady.

The minutes are of local interest.

Bro. Hy. Robertson opens and admirable report on Correspondence, in which most of the Templar world has attention, as follows:

Your Committee on Correspondence present the following report:

It has been more than a glance at the doings of our brethren; it has been a pleasant journeying through other lands. We have been where the Mayflower cast the vile Puritan seed, and rested beneath the Templar trees which grew therefrom. We have tested Southern hospitality,

Kentucky and otherwise. The breath of the magnolia blossom has permeated our senses, and we have felt the hot air of deserts beneath the sea level. From over the Rockies have come stirring notes of progress, and from the far Northwest there has echoed the bugle call to battle for the right. Hands have stretched out in friendly greeting from States which are girt about the loins of a great continent. In the large cities armies of brave Knights have passed before us in review. A voice has spoken from the nation's capitals. It has echoed from the Hub to the Golden Gate. It has breathed over the land, courtesy and charity and truth. Where there are true Knights, there is true manhood. The same fountain never jets forth sweet and bitter waters. The sweetest stream that flows from the uncorrupted source is charity. It is man's humanity to man. It flows side by side with justice, and hovering over it is the spirit of truth.

We have passed through leafy glades where "mild-eyed peace" broods over the gathering together of Brothers. We have scaled the mountain heights where a handful of Knights have enshrined the Cross of Malta. We have gone down in depths where there is mourning for those brave Templars "who have met the angel by the river's brink." We have watched the splendid array of plumed Knights flashing their swords in serried ranks.

And now, our journey over, we have brought with us into your honored presence a memoir of what we have seen and heard. That it is but a brief synopsis is to be laid at the door of the gentleman who made our calendar. That it is elliptical, is because in so extensive and varied a branch of our Order, there is an embarrassment of riches.

Bro. Robertson's notice of Mississippi for 1894 and 1895 is full and fraternal. He is exceedingly chary of comment, simply clipping what strikes him as being of interest and expressing no opinion, usually, of who is right and who wrong. He departs from this custom, slightly, in the following, in which reference is had to the "Law Report" on the non-affiliation matter:

This report was adopted, but it seems strange to us. We fancy that the trouble arises from the use of some of the esoteric work of the Lodge in the American Commanderies, which is not the case in this jurisdiction. The Templars had better abolish that feature of their work.

Of course his conjecture is wide of the mark, as the matter of ritual, esoteric or otherwise, cuts no figure in the case. We venture to enlighten our good brother with the information that the Grand Lodge of Mississippi considers non-affiliates and non-contributors to the Lodge Treasury, or charity if you prefer, as that is the direction which the bulk of our Masonic funds take, as *Masonic drones*, having no rights Masonically that are entitled to the respect of anybody—and the Grand Commandery endorses the principle by refusing them recognition in the Order so long as they are thus debarred in the Blue Lodge. Only this, and nothing more.

He closes as follows:

That eminent chronicler, James Anthony Froude, speaks of the early Templars as "mounted police on the pilgrims' road." \* \* \* "nine young gentlemen, whose sole object in life was to escort pious souls to the scene of Christ's sufferings and resurrection."

So our work lies still before us. The road is rough with ignorance and superstition. It is dangerous with the unseen foes of selfishness and faint-heartedness. It is weary with the cries of those whose protectors have fallen by the way. But we must keep a safe thoroughfare for those who are journeying through life's mountain passes or down death's dark valley. The Knights of the Temple are ever in the vanguard, clearing a way, for the weak, comforting the sorrowful, helping the unfortunate, and if need be, fighting even unto death.

We are not meek recluses. Where there is conflict for right we are in the press of the struggle. The early crusaders were men of fiery temper, hot of blood, unsparing of hand. Theirs was a stern life, with little leisure and no amusements. It ill becomes their descendants to live to no purpose. For centuries the Templars were a political and a spiritual force in the world's history. Let the modern Templars' influence still be wide-reaching and beneficent. May each Knight be able to say to his brother

"Nor have I brought thee shame,  
Nor err'd this hand unfaithful to its aim;  
Nor proved the toil too hard; nor have I lost  
That ancient vigor, once my pride and boast."

All of which is courteously submitted.

M. E. Sir Wm. H. White, Grand Master; E. Sir Daniel Spry, Grand Chancellor; E. Sir Henry Robertson, Correspondent.

#### GEORGIA—1895.

Twenty-fourth Annual at Savannah, April 17th.

The opening was preceded by an eloquent address of welcome from Rev. Sir A. M. Williams, which was responded to by the Grand Commander, in appropriate terms. After which came an "excellent spread, prepared by Palestine Commandery for their guests."

The Grand Commandery was opened with Grand Commander Park Woodward, in the East, Sir Samuel P. Hamilton, Grand Recorder. Quite a number of Past Grand Officers, including six Past Grand Chancellors, representatives from ten Subordinate Commanderies, and twenty-one Grand Commanders were present.

The address is a good one, but is devoted to matters local, principally. He opens as follows:

**SIR KNIGHTS:** Another year has gone to join its shadowy brothers in the misty past since last were gathered together from all sections of our State those who bear the honor of being called our Fraters in Templarism.

Since then many and varied have been the changes that time, in its ceaseless rounds, has wrought.

The grim reaper death has entered our Asylum, eluding the sentinels, and taken from us those who in life grandly illustrated the teachings of our Order and adorned it in whatever sphere their lot was cast; may the dews of Heaven fall lightly on their new-made graves, may the silent stars guard jealously their resting place, and may their noble lives be an inspiration to those of us who remain behind; peace to their ashes, consolation to their loved ones, and honor to their memory.



It is not my purpose to-day to talk to you of the beauties and glories of our Order, for abler and worthier lips than mine have charmed your ears by their recital.

I need not tell you of the wonderful achievements of the past or its bright hopes for the future.

I need not remind you of its mission nor the glory of its success.

I need not tell you that it has swept down the centuries freighted with honor and laden with benedictions.

I need not call to your mind that its benign influence has been felt wherever Templarism is known, and that wherever its Cross be planted its influence for good is potential. It has stood the test of time; kingdoms may rise and fall; governments may be born and cease to exist, but the principles of our Order will endure forever, for they are founded on truth, and that is eternal.

I, therefore, beg your indulgence while I claim your attention in reference to the affairs that have occurred during the year in which I have filled the exalted station to which, by your kindness and courtesy, I have been called.

His dispensations were all for practical purposes. Regarding the "Christmas Libation," he has this to say:

#### CHRISTMAS LIBATION.

The beautiful custom which has been adopted in joining in a Christmas toast to the Grand Master of Templars in America is one that should be encouraged and perpetuated. I take this occasion, Sir Knights, of calling your attention to the fact that the usual observance of Christmas day is so far removed from what it should be, that we, as Knights Templar, owe it to ourselves and the cause we represent, to set the example of commemorating that day in a proper manner, and not indulge in the usual excesses which seem from custom to be incident to the occasion. Let us not forget that we are soldiers of the cross, and that it is our duty to illustrate the life of the Grand Captain of our salvation by conduct that he himself would approve.

All of which we endorse most heartily. He pays a high and deserved tribute to the work of Sir Roland B. Hall, for his full and excellent report on Correspondence.

Several of the staff made reports of inspection by them. These show the Order to be fairly prosperous in the Empire State of the South.

The proceedings are local. Total membership 679—a gain of 32.

Bro. Hall presented his seventh annual report as Correspondent, in which he passes upon the doings of thirty-nine Templar Grand Bodies, in his customary pleasant and courteous style, Mississippi for 1894 getting more than five pages. He copies the non-affiliate report, in full, which he prefaces as follows:

As a matter of interest to the Order and a question which will certainly be further discussed, we publish in full the following from the Committee on Templar Law. The same was adopted. The position taken by Mississippi is radical and extreme. The idea is simply preposterous and absurd, that the Grand Lodge of New York can wipe out of existence every Chapter, Council, Commandery and Consistory in that State.

The only wrong we see is the Grand Lodge of Mississippi fixing a

penalty for non-affiliation, which is equal to suspension or expulsion. Our Fraters, as they say, cannot serve two masters. We hold to the belief that the Grand Encampment will be the master in this case.

Our readers are entitled to their several opinions.

Of course they are, and so is Bro. Hall entitled to *his* opinion, the correctness, or otherwise, of that opinion cutting no figure in the case. We have no doubt that time and the consensus of Masonic sentiment will fully sustain the position of our committee on this subject.

We thank our brother for pleasant words for this committee, which we would copy but for Bro. Rucker's objection. We still adhere to the opinion that there is not enough "Hall" in the Georgia reports.

We copy his conclusion :

Again our work as Correspondent is finished, and our pencil and scissors are reluctantly laid aside. As the last copy of proceedings is reviewed, we feel "like one,"

Who treads alone  
Some banquet hall deserted,  
Whose lights are fled,  
Whose garlands dead,  
And all but him departed."

Pleasant is it to commune with the bright, congenial spirit of those who compose the Corps of Correspondents. But few are known to us personally. Yet for each and all we entertain the strongest friendship, and feel as if we had intimately known them for years. We have enjoyed their words of cheer and profited by their wisdom. Feeling thus, it is sad to realize that they are rapidly passing away, and that it will never be our happy privilege to view many of them in this life.

Since commencing this report, the sad intelligence reaches us that three of the most distinguished of American Templars are no more. R. E. Sirs JOSEPH K. WHEELER, of Connecticut, DWIGHT BYINGTON, of Kansas, and ROBERT MACOY, of New York. All rapidly followed each other to receive the awards which await a valiant Templar. No three men have more fully impressed their genius upon the Templar world. No three men but could have been better spared, and none who will be more greatly missed and mourned. Peace to their ashes, rest to their souls.

To our Fraters at home, we have to ask indulgence for the many imperfections you will doubtless find in the perusal of this report. We return our most sincere thanks for past kindnesses and honors at your hands, and shall always strive to merit a continuance of your confidence and esteem.

Courteously yours,  
ROLAND B. HALL.

R. E. Sir Joseph K. Orr is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

#### INDIANA—1895.

Forty-first Annual at Indianapolis, April 17th. There were present : R. E. Charles W. Slick, Grand Commander, E. Sir Wm. H. Smythe, Grand Recorder, all the rest of the Grand Officers, fourteen Past Grand

Commanders, about 100 P. E. Commanders, 22 Grand Representatives, and the Representatives of every Subordinate Commandery in that State. This shows the hold Templar Masonry has upon our Hoosier brethren.

The Grand Commander's address is a quite lengthy, but well digested resume of his official acts and administration. Appropriate tribute is paid to dead of his own and sister jurisdictions, which he closes with the following:

Considering this long list of loved ones that have preceded us to the Promised Land, we cannot but conclude that

"Death is a crown of life:  
Were death denied, poor man would live in vain,  
Were death denied, to live would not be life,  
Were death denied, even fools would wish to die.

Death wounds to cure; We fall,  
We rise,  
We reign.

Spring from our fetters, fasten in the skies  
Where blooming Eden withers in our sight;  
Death gives us more than was in Eden lost,  
The King of Terrors is the Prince of Peace."

In answer to the last line. His dispensations were for legitimate purposes, including one for a new Commandery. His decisions, of which he made quite a number, are all sensible and sound.

We quote the last as sounding a little shaky:

8. As neither of the first three officers of a chartered Commandery can resign after installation, can either of them dimit?

*Answer.* Yes. Membership in a Commandery, from first to last, is voluntary, therefore I see no reason to exclude an Eminent Commander, Generalissimo or Captain-General from the same privilege enjoyed by other members.

If we remember rightly an officer of the Blue Lodge cannot resign or dimit during his term, and we think the rule should extend to all the branches of the Masonic tree.

Referring to the Alabama resolutions anent the use, by saloons, of Templar Symbols, he says:

This action on the part of the Grand Commandery of Alabama, to me seems commendable, but it does not go far enough. The display of the cross upon the outside of saloons may and does wound our pride and feelings. It certainly does not hurt the symbol of our beloved Order. Nor would the Bible be injured if laid upon a table in every saloon in the land; but, Sir Knights, this should afford us food for reflection. Call to mind the Encampment at Denver, for illustration; the numerous headquarters, Grand and Subordinate, the lavish display of the cross and other emblems of our Order in them; then remember how many dispensed intoxicating liquors over what is worse than a saloon, a free bar.

We may so have formed our habits that such action would not seriously injure any of us, but what of the example upon the rising gen-

eration; what of our boys, they will be quick to imitate your every action. To have it more forcibly impressed on your minds, take your boys with you. It is a mistaken notion, that to convince a man of his welcome you must first give him that which will befuddle his brain and cloud his intellect and reasoning faculties. I congratulate this Grand Commandery that by the action of the Triennial Committee at Denver they demonstrated this fact beyond cavil. It was common remark that at no place was there a more cordial welcome and home-like atmosphere than at Indiana headquarters.

There is more true brotherly welcome and sociability in a cup of coffee or a glass of lemonade than in any intoxicating beverage. I would recommend the taking of another step; add one more request to these worthy requests of the Alabama Sir Knights, to-wit: Let us urge our Most Eminent Grand Master to ask all Grand and Subordinate Commanderies to refrain entirely from dispensing intoxicating liquors at their respective headquarters at Boston.

The remedy for all this is: Either abolish the Grana Encampment, which would be a blessing in many ways, prohibit the attendance of any but members of the body at place of meeting, and the headquarters feature, which is a fruitful source of intemperance and devilment, or secure a park, as Iowa has done, away from the adjuncts of hell—the saloons—and then prohibit the presence on the grounds of any and all intoxicants, expelling each and every Templar (?) who has it in his room, his pocket or his stomach.

When a man has no higher conception of hospitality than to assume that he cannot properly entertain a gentleman without these concomitants of hell and the devil's kingdom, he is not fit for membership in an institution founded upon the religion of Christ and the practice of the Christian virtues. *Kick him out!* No matter whether he is an officer of the highest rank or a private in the rear rank. Let us be consistent. Either live up to the fundamental principles of the Order or *get out* of it.

We are glad to find that the Grand Body concurred in the remarks of its chief officer. The address as a whole is an *excellent* one.

The proceedings are local. The Order is in splendid shape. Peace reigns between New York and Indiana once more. Total membership 3,366—a gain of 615.

The Correspondence covers over 100 pages; considers the minutes of thirty-eight Templar Grand Bodies, and is the work of Past Grand Commander Ruckle.

Mississippi, for 1894, gets five pages. He quotes a considerable part of the law report on non-affiliates, and then proceeds to set down on Fred., with a dull thud as follows:

Such a law, or such a construction of law as is here contended for, is, in our view, a violation of the fundamental principles of Masonic right and justice. The intent of such legislation is not to deprive the unaffiliate of his rights in the Lodge, for as a rule he does not claim or exercise any; nor is it the object of this regulation to prevent the unaffiliate from petitioning a Commandery to confer the orders on him, for there is no Commandery into which such a petitioner can gain an en-

trance, but to punish him for his non-affiliation by depriving him of that Masonic good standing which is the basis of his Templar rights and privileges.

We hold membership in Masonic institutions to be voluntary ; that the right of withdrawal at any time is unquestioned, if there be no charges pending. And we earnestly contend that the Lodge has no right to follow the unaffiliate beyond its lines, merely for the purpose of collecting dues. It is a lowering of the standard of the Lodge to make it a collecting agency through a criminal process.

That the Grand Lodge may exclude all non-affiliates from visitation, from relief, from right of burial, is undisputable ; that it may exclude them from Masonic intercourse with their fellows is not so clear ; that it can in justice deprive them of Masonic standing without trial is beyond our belief.

The system of legislation against non-affiliates can not be productive of good. However great the evils of non-affiliation may be, they are not so injurious as the methods of curing them, which are proposed, nor the arguments which are intended to sustain these methods.

If a non-affiliate, suspended under the Mississippi law, without trial, removes beyond that jurisdiction, or, as is most apt to be the case, returns to his original jurisdiction, will he not regain the good standing of which he has been deprived ?

This sounds plausible enough when taken as one, but when the other side comes to the front, as in the law report, it degenerates into nonsense, pure and simple. These drones are such from choice, and that they are so, proves their utter and entire loss of interest in the Order, and are entitled to no respect or consideration on account of their having been made Masons. That fact certainly does not give them any claim to foist themselves into the society of the workers in the so-called higher degrees, with whom they are debarred from association in the so-called low degrees.

Bro. Ruckle closes his review or clipping, from our report, with the following, of which he ought to be ashamed, because it is not true, and he knew it, when he wrote it :

" We regret to note, that in spite of his assertive independence *he quotes all the good notices he gets.*" (Italics ours.)

R. E. Sir Walter M. Hindman is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### IOWA—1895.

Thirty-second annual at Spirit Lake, Templar Park, July 9th. Sir David W. Clements, Grand Commander, Sir Alf. Wingate, Grand Recorder ; 38 out of 54 chartered Commanderies were represented.

The address of Grand Commander is a comparatively short document, but, as it doubtless contains all he had to say, we are not disposed to complain. We clip the following :

Since last we met a year has past with its pains and pleasures, the joys and sorrows incident to human life. Again the waters of the lake

sparkle in the sunshine, wooing us hither; the cool shade of our sturdy oaks invite us to enjoy their shadows, and the invigorating breeze beneath their branches whispers of rest from care and toil, of past fraternal enjoyments in our Templar home, and prophesy of others still to come.

No sound of rattling car or noisy train, or bustle of business cares, come here to disturb our enjoyment of nature at its best; the winds and waves and wooded heights are to minister to our comfort, and all is peace. To this sylvan retreat we welcome you. May it long be yours to enjoy, with old friendships annually renewed and new ones added.

With hope and confidence we look forward to the annual gathering here of a great army of Knights and their families encamped on this beautiful shore, receiving here new inspirations and achieving new victories of peace as the years pass on.

An army of more than forty-three hundred Sir Knights marching beneath the banner of the cross in this great commonwealth is a factor of no small influence in shaping its future, in maintaining the equality and freedom of man, in promoting our public schools and institutions of learning, and in the advancement of Christian faith unbiassed by narrow sectarianism.

There is no doubt that 4,300 good men can do a world of good, if they only try. Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the fraternal dead. From the "decisions" we clip the following:

*First.* A Companion presented his petition for the orders of Knighthood to a Commandery in Minnesota, where he then resided, and was by it elected, but came away before receiving the orders. Twenty years afterward, being a resident of Iowa, he applied for the orders to and was elected by the Commandery at his residence. Before proceeding further the question arose as to its right to confer the orders, and was referred to me. I decided that the consent of the Minnesota Commandery must be first obtained, which consent must be unanimous and by ballot for the purpose of dissenting therefrom.

Had the Minnesota Commandery rejected the petition, then the decision would be O. K., but, as it elected the candidate and he simply failed to come forward and receive the orders, the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction does not apply. The candidate was in the same condition, precisely, as though he had never petitioned.

He issued one dispensation for a new Commandery. He says, with all the gravity of a criminal judge about to pass sentence, that he has issued two dispensations to two of his Subordinates, to *Invade* the jurisdiction of Illinois, due authority from that bailiwick having been obtained therefor! We had hoped that this childish *invasion* nonsense would die out in the East, but here it is, in the Grand Commandery of Iowa, noted for its brainy men and sound, practical sense and a supreme contempt for stupidity and tomfoolery of all sorts. It makes us tired!

The ladies of Iowa seem to take a lively interest in the institution, as the following shows:

#### JEWEL.

The joint committee on special jewel for wives and daughters of Iowa Knights Templar, appointed by the ladies and the Grand Com-

mandery at the last conclave, performed that duty in a very creditable manner, selected a beautiful and appropriate design for such jewel, and presented it to the Grand Commander for approval, which was gladly given, and General Order No. 4, attached hereto, was issued accordingly.

We should like to see this sentiment spread over all the land; it would redound to the welfare of the Order and bless the world. To show how nicely our Iowa brethren are fixed and the part the ladies take in the annual meetings, we copy from General Order No. 6:

"The apartment house contains ninety-eight rooms, which are in charge of Eminent Sir F. H. Loring, Grand Captain-General, Oskaloosa, Iowa, to whom all communications relating thereto should be addressed. The rate is \$1.00 for each person during the conclave. Each room will conveniently accommodate two or more, and is furnished with two spring-mattress single cots, two chairs, and a stand. Be sure to provide bedding, wash-dish, towels, lamp, mirror, soap, and such other articles as you may need. The nights are generally cool, and bedding should be provided accordingly. It and the other articles can be tied in a bundle and checked to Spirit Lake as baggage. Have your mail addressed to Templar Park, Spirit Lake, Iowa.

"Sargent Bros., Spirit Lake, will carry passengers and baggage between Spirit Lake and the Park at a reasonable rate for baggage and twenty-five cents each way for passengers.

"The dining-hall has been provided with a cold-storage room, and a fine, large refrigerator in the dining-room. The dining-hall will be in charge of Messrs. D. Wormley & Son, experienced restaurant and railroad eating-house keepers, who will furnish board at fifty cents per meal, seven dollars per week, or one dollar and twenty-five cents per day for party remaining four days, and will be prepared to serve-meals on and after June first.

"The Hotel Orleans is across the lake, about one mile from the Park, and its managers have kindly favored us with a special rate for the conclave of \$2.00 per day each where two occupy one room, and \$2.50 per day where one person occupies a single room. The fine steamer Queen daily makes regular trips around the lake and between Templar Park and Hotel Orleans. For the conclave a special rate on this steamer of \$1.00 for the week has been given us. Persons stopping at the Orleans can be conveyed to and from the Park on the steamer.

"The ladies' band, of Eldora, Iowa, consisting of sixteen members, under the leadership of Professor D. Hunter, will furnish music during the conclave. The ladies are good musicians, and are all wives or daughters of Knights Templar, and embrace a number of good vocalists, who will furnish music when desired.

Will Mississippi ever be rich, or have sense enough to adopt the delightful plan of our Iowa Fraters? We hope so.

In this connection we copy from the minutes as follows:

#### EVENING ENTERTAINMENT.

At 8 o'clock the Grand Officers gave a reception in the dining-hall, the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Thomas B. Lacey, presiding. The ladies' band furnished several numbers in music, and added greatly to the pleasure of the evening by giving vocal numbers in costume. The most touching feature was the presentation of three Templar ladies' jewels as birthday mementoes. The first was to the

wife of our Grand Commander, with an eloquent address by Past Grand Commander Judge A. R. Dewey. The second was to Mrs. J. B. Atkins, and the address, in his usually able and eloquent style, was by Past Grand Commander Hon. W. F. Cleveland. The third was to Miss Carrie, daughter of Grand Captain-General Major F. H. Loring, with the address by the Grand Prelate, John Westley Geiger.

Light refreshments were served by the Grand Commander and his staff, consisting of fruits, cake, ice cream, and lemonade.

The closing feature of the evening was the fire-works, in charge of Past Grand Commander Sir E. O. Soule, assisted by a corps of Sir Knights.

The attendance taxed the capacity of the dining-hall, and all expressed themselves as highly pleased with the reception tendered by the Grand Officers.

The proceedings are local. Order in fine shape. Total Commander-ies making returns 54. U. D. 2. Total membership 4173—a gain of 57.

Correspondence covers 76 pages, reviews the transactions of nearly all the Templar family of governing bodies, Mississippi '95 included, and was submitted by Rev. I. C. W. Coxe, who we presume is its author. The report is able and interesting, a peculiarity of Iowa Templar writings. Bro. Cox's review of Mississippi is pleasant and kind. Replying to his query to Grand Commander French "of the exact number of years necessary to render any custom "venerable," we beg to say that the number varies according to the custom, person or thing spoken of. Some people are born "venerable" and remain so all their lives; some never grow old, but retain the seeming disposition of childhood until they cross the "River" and enter the land where youth lasts always and time has ended in eternity.

The Christmas Toast has been in vogue, shared by Bro. Berry and sundry invited participators for near a score of years. The fact that it has but recently been taken under the wing of the Grand Encampment, is no sign that that was its beginning, hence the term used by our beloved Bro. French was proper and in accord with all the proprieties.

As we have already devoted much space to Iowa, we shall have to refrain from further attention to the Correspondence report.

R. E. Sir Thomas B. Lacey is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### ILLINOIS—1895.

A ponderous tome of nearly 400 pages contains the proceedings of the Grand Commandery of this State, which convened in the city of Chicago, October 22d.

The Grand Commander's address is a well written *resume* of the acts of an able and successful administration. It being Triennial year, of course there was much to be done and many things to be looked after in order to a proper representation and appearance of this Grand Body at the "Hub," much of which fell upon him, and was faithfully performed.

He opens as follows:



That season of the year has arrived when

"The yellow Autumn sun  
Saddens all it looks upon:"

when leaves o'er forest, hill, and dale, touched by coming Winter's breath, let go the stem and trembling fall to mother earth. Since last we met, Winter in its majesty, Spring in its beauty, and Summer in its fervency, have come and gone, and now in the west the Autumn sun is setting, and the Templar year is dying.

As in olden times, out of Mount Seir a voice called aloud: "Watchman, what of the night?" Watchman, what of the night? so it is most befitting that we as Knights Templar assemble at the threshold of the departing year, review the record made, and ask ourselves, what of the year?

"What know ye more that's worth the knowing?  
What have we done that's worth the doing?  
What have we sought that we should shun?  
What duties have we left undone?  
And into what new follies run?"

In such retrospection we find much indeed that gladdens the heart. We rejoice to see a tranquil world that, for the most part, has laid aside the sword of war; we rejoice to see our own beloved country peaceful and prosperous, and sustaining her envied position in the ranks of nations; we rejoice to see our own State with others dwelling in harmony; we especially rejoice to see in the van of all progress the beauseant of Templar Masonry, and know that the armies thereunder, and the principles they represent, are better known and more fully recognized to-day than ever before in the history of the world—a fact well attested by the national outpouring at the recent triennial conclave; but above all do we rejoice at the welfare of the Order within this grand jurisdiction, and that so many representatives are permitted to assemble here at this annual gathering to engage in a labor of love.

For all these blessings let us not forget to look aloft and return fervid thanks to the Giver of all good.

He issued two dispensations for new Commanderies. He reports that 54 Commanderies observed one or the other of Templar holidays, Easter and Ascension Days—2,225 attending Easter service and 453 Ascension. Now there is a total of membership there of 9,355, and as less than one-third of them attended religious services on these occasions, we are forced to the conclusion that the standard of piety of this sort, in the Sucker State, is rather low.

The R. E. gravely remarks: "It is gratifying to note this general interest increasing from year to year."

He issued a big batch of dispensations and all for practical and proper purposes, including one allowing the boys to wear their "trusty claymores" to a charity ball, and excepting one allowing an Iowa Commandery to "invade" Illinois!!!

This is the first time we have seen this stupid nonsense in an address outside of the Eastern and New England States, and we sincerely hope the disease will not spread.

Some of the "Guild" object to the charity ball dispensation, but

while we are not partial to amusements of this sort, especially where the licentious and demoralizing modern waltz is allowed, we much prefer a "charity ball" to a "Triennial."

His decisions are in accord with good sense.

The Junior Grand Warden, acting as Inspecting Officer, not having been received by a delegation and a brass band from the Commandery at the depot and escorted to the hotel, bathed and put to bed, complained to the R. E., who soothed his wounded dignity in the best way possible. All the rest of the address is taken up with details and matters pertaining to the Triennial Blow Out, a matter which has no interest at all for this committee.

Reports were made by all the staff officers as Inspecting Officers.

Resolutions of sympathy with our beloved Bro. Gil. W. Barnard on the death of his wife, were introduced by Past Grand Commander Smith, which were unanimously adopted, by a rising vote. May God comfort, sustain and help the bereaved in this hour of bitter trial.

The proceedings were routine and local. Order in tip-top shape. Total membership 9,355—a gain of 227. Total received for dues to Grand Commandery, \$7,754.75.

The Correspondence is the seventh effort, along this line, of our venerable Bro. John Corson Smith, and is, as usual, first-class in all respects. His opening chorus is couched in the following language:

To the Grand Commandery of the State of Illinois:

Our seventh annual report, gleaned from the Knightly archives of the Templar Grand Bodies with which this Grand Commandery is in fraternal correspondence, is herewith submitted.

If in any way we have omitted matters of interest in these papers it is because they were written under various and sometimes trying circumstances, and amidst pressure of exciting scenes in foreign lands or upon tempestuous seas.

Should we seem to have much to say of our country's flag, "Old Glory," please bear in mind that we have not introduced the subject except in reply to other correspondents, and separated as we were from that glorious emblem of our National greatness, we could but feel warmly when we thought there was an effort on the part of any one to belittle its influence and retire it to obscurity.

Sail as we have around the globe and under the flag of almost every nation except our own, and the reader will return a greater lover of our starry banner than ever before.

Visit the people of other lands, study their customs, manners, and condition, and you, too, will return a better American than ever before.

We have no apology for aught we have said on that subject, because we do not think any apology is necessary. On the contrary, we firmly believe that every word will meet with a hearty response in the heart of each Knight Templar in the United States.

Any man that objects to a reasonable amount of interest and pride in his country's flag, is an ass! We are inclined to think that Bro. Smith is a sort of cosmopolitan tramp, although he may deny the soft impeachment.

The report is a "book of travels" as well as a review of Templar transactions, and is full of interest from beginning to end. Most, if not all, of it was written "on the wing," his review of our pamphlet for '95 having been penned on the Mediteranian, on the way to Malta. Bro. Smith's attention to Mississippi is full, fraternal and pleasant.

He disclaims the "tramping propensity," and says the trip was made in the hope of better health and "more light." We presume they found the health, judging from the looks of the travelers, as their pictures adorn the report. The daughter looks as blooming as a peach and equally sweet, while Sir John looks the picture of robust health. Sister Smith's pleasant, kindly face also beautifies this unique report. "Sibly's Inn," the residence of the Smith family and the abode of a princely hospitality, is also shown, together with numerous cuts of places and events of the trip. The report is not susceptible of much clipping and we don't want to destroy it, by that process, if it were, hence will say good-bye and God bless you all.

R. E. Sir Augustus L. Webster, is Grand Commander; E. Sir Gil. W. Barnard, Grand Recorder; R. E. Sir John Corson Smith, Correspondent.

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#### KANSAS—1895.

Twenty-sixth Annual at Wichita, May 14th. Present: R. E. Alex. G. Robb, Grand Commander; Sir A. M. Callaham, Grand Recorder; the entire staff, 7 Past Grand Commanders, 10 Grand Representatives, and representatives of 37 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander opens an eloquent address as follows:

**SIR KNIGHTS AND FRATERS:** In response to a very urgent invitation of Mt. Olivet Commandery, given one year ago, we have met in this proud city, "The Peerless Princess of the Plains," to again consider the interests of Templar Masonry. It is with knightly greeting that I welcome you to this, the Twenty-sixth Annual Conclave.

One can scarcely realize that a year has come and gone since last we met. Many who were with us a twelvemonth ago will be with us no more on earth. Their life-work is complete; ours will be perhaps ere the coming of another Conclave. May we not then each ask the question: What is the good we have accomplished during the past year, either as an Order or as individual Knights? Have we been Templars only in name? Have we greeted the poor and weary pilgrim traveling from afar, fed and clothed him, and sent him on his way rejoicing? Have we illustrated in our daily lives that principle of our Order which is its crowning glory: Charity, which is another name for Love, which itself is another name for CHRIST—CHRIST of the cross and sepulcher? Have we been true soldiers of the cross, ready to follow where He leads? Have we—

"So lived that when the sun  
Of our existence sinks in night,  
Memories sweet of mercies done  
May shrine our names in Memory's light;  
And the blest seeds we scattered bloom  
A hundred-fold in days to come."

These thoughts, Sir Knights, are subjects for careful consideration, and if we have been derelict in any of these duties we have not been true to our knightly vows. Let us, each and every one, take these questions home to ourselves. Let us meditate upon our sins of omission as well as commission, and learning a lesson from such meditation, resolve, with God's help, to do more for suffering humanity the coming year than we did the one just gone by.

He gives a list of the Chapters in the State, with the membership of each, together with a list of the Commanderies, showing, also, their membership, from which data he finds that there are 4,843 Chapter members and 3,010 Templars. Quite a large proportion, it strikes us. If our Chapter Masons were equally inclined to go a step further and enter the Commandery, Templary in Mississippi would take on a large sized bloom. Want of cash, or poverty, we assume, is the prime cause of the smallness of our numbers.

Relative to the "Masonic Home," we find this:

#### MASONIC HOME.

In regard to the Masonic Home, it is with regret that I have to inform you of the action of the Grand Lodge at its last session in adopting the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the action of Grand Lodge at its last Annual Communication in appropriating and ordering paid to the Kansas Masonic Home the sum of money then in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, raised by special assessment of one dollar for each member borne on the roll of the Lodges, and which sum aggregated \$13,326.15, be rescinded, and that the said sum, together with the sum of \$2,294 collected by the Grand Secretary on said assessment, and now in the Special Fund, so-called, be transferred to the Charity Fund of Grand Lodge.

In 1893 the Grand Lodge was unanimous in its action to carry out the work, and seemed determined that a Masonic Home would soon be a reality in this State, so that their recent action seems inexplicable to me. No one dares to question or impugn the motives of those who have labored for years to build up a sentiment and fund that would enable the Masonic Bodies of this State to carry out one of the cardinal principles of masonry, charity, to care for the poor and needy.

Will we not blush to hear the Grand Master's praise in the day of the great and final review, and with the humility and modesty of a true chivalry, will ask him, "Lord, where and when and how?" And he will say, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of one of these, you have done it unto me." It is true that the present is a time when economy should be practiced, but I think it is mistaken economy to halt at this time when charity is so much needed, to shatter the capstone, as it were, just as it was about to be placed in position.

I trust that with the advent of better times in the near future, the brethren of the Grand Lodge will again put their best efforts forward for the carrying on of this grand and noble object, and that we will not become the laughing stock for our next door neighbors.

It is to be hoped that this noble charity will not be allowed to die a boring.

We copy the following with much pleasure:

#### TEMPERANCE.

I am much pleased at the stand taken by a great number of Templar

organizations in other jurisdictions in regard to the use of intoxicating drinks at the banquet table. It affords me much pleasure to indulge in the thought that few, if any, of the Commanderies in our own jurisdiction would take a candidate through our solemn ceremonies, and then wilfully place before him the cup that will dim his intellect and make him feel that our Order is a mockery and a farce. "Knights Templar are not the kind of men who go and drink alone," and if the social feature of the practice is abandoned and put under ban, there is no fear of private drinking.

I trust, Sir Knights, that while this Grand Body is in session, no Sir Knight will so conduct himself as to bring forth the remark, "He tips like a Templar," but on the contrary, let our conduct be such that the citizens of this big hearted city will say that Knights Templar are gentlemen, their conduct proving them to be Sir Knights.

We think it about time that these sentiments became universal among Templars. A tipping Templar and a hypocritical church member are two of the most contemptible objects on earth.

Proceedings local. Total membership 3,176—a gain of 67.

Grand Recorder Callaham is the author of the Correspondence report, which covers 64 pages and digests the transactions of most of the Templar families; Mississippi for '94 receiving pleasant attention. Anent the Law Report, he says:

As a correspondent, we are a novice, in our swaddling clothes, as it were; but if we were older, enough so that it would not look presumptuous to buck up against R. E. Sir Speed and his R. E. compeers, we would venture to say that the Grand Lodge in its exalted position should be too exalted to take cognizance of any other society that its members may choose to belong to, so long as such membership does not bring Masonry into disrepute.

In our judgment, it has no right to dictate what the laws of other societies shall be, because some of its members belong thereto. It has no censorship over the Grand Commandery or Grand Encampment. The Grand Commandery or Grand Encampment has an undoubted right to prescribe the qualifications of its own members, just as the Grand Lodge has the right to prescribe the qualifications of a man to be made a Mason.

The Grand Lodge is not taking cognizance of any other society—it simply regulates its own family circle to suit itself. If our brother is anxious to associate, as a Templar, with these drones in the parent hive with whom he can have nothing to do there, it is his privilege to do so, but we don't find it so down here.

This is Bro. Callaham's first appearance as a Correspondent, but he writes like an old stager and gets up an admirable report, which he concludes as follows:

If we have failed to fulfill your expectations, we plead inexperience—*our first effort*. If we have criticised unjustly, remember it is human to err, and divine to forgive. In regard to our hopeful, joyous feeling about our Masonic Home, we cover our face while we say: We wrote this Report on Correspondence previous to the Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge; and now this reviewer in humiliation and shamefacedness is compelled to say that (probably on account of the financial depression) at that Communication a strong opposition to a Masonic

Home manifested itself. Our *Grand Master* read the report of a committee from the Grand Lodge of Iowa, showing the expensiveness of such method of caring for our dependents. The arguments had the effect he desired, and the Grand Lodge would scarcely give hearing to the friends of the Home. He offered a set of resolutions which he had previously prepared, setting aside the money that had been collected by the Grand Lodge for Masonic Home purposes, even that collected in 1893 by *special assessment for this purpose*; said money to be invested in loans on real estate, the interest thereof to be used for charitable purposes. To those who believe in Masonic Homes this is indeed very humiliating; but we give notice now that we are not dead. Truth crushed to the earth will rise again. God lives, and our Masonic Home will arise, and be our Masonic glory.

Which we commend to the careful consideration of Bro. Barkley, *et al.* We can do much good along this line, if we do the right thing. If we fail to do this, our experience will be similar to that of our Kansas brethren.

R.: E.: Robert E. Torrington, is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

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#### LOUISIANA—1895.

Thirty-second Annual at New Orleans, February 15th, Sir L. H. Gardiner, Grand Generalissimo, presiding; Sir Richard Lambert, P. G. C., Recorder; 11 Past Grand Commanders and Representatives of three Subordinate Commanderies were in attendance.

The Grand Commander being unavoidably absent, his address was read by the Grand Recorder. It covers a little more than two pages and is entirely local in its references. The minutes outside of the address, cover but six pages, and are also local.

Total membership 311—a gain of 17.

P. G. Master, J. Q. A. Fellows, commenced the Report on Fraternal Correspondence, but, after writing three pages was taken seriously ill, which prevents the completion of the report. We are glad to be able to say that our distinguished Sir Knight has since recovered.

We note, with much pleasure, the election of our friend of many years, a whilom Natchez boy, Dr. W. H. Watkins, to the office of E.: Grand Generalissimo.

Sir Charles F. Buck is R.: E.: Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MISSOURI—1895.

Thirty-fourth Annual at St. Louis, April 23d and 24th. Present: R.: E.: Thos. R. Morrow, Grand Commander; E. Sir Wm. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder; 31 Grand Representatives, 13 Past Grand Commanders, 36 P. E. Commanders and the Representatives of 57 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is exceptionally able and interesting. We clip the following from his opening remarks, as the extract contains words of wisdom applicable everywhere :

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Missouri :

In the name of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of the State of Missouri, I extend a cordial and Knightly greeting individually to each Sir Knight present. It is entirely fitting that so many visiting Sir Knights should honor this occasion with their presence, and I most heartily welcome them to the Thirty-fourth Annual Conclave of this Body. By their counsel and advice, they may render important and valuable services to the members of this Body in their deliberations upon matters in which all have a common interest.

To the members of this Body, I would say that you are assembled to hear report of the official acts during the past year of those whom you last invested with power and supervision ; to learn the condition of the Order throughout this Grand Jurisdiction, and to deliberate upon such matters pertaining to its future general welfare as may be presented, or that may arise in the course of the proceedings. To those officers of Subordinate Commanderies who may, at this Conclave, be present for the first time as members of this Body, I would say that you are here not simply as spectators. You owe it to the Order in general to be active participants in the deliberations of this Conclave ; to be watchful of the proceedings, and to thoroughly acquaint yourselves with the matters that may be considered, to the end that you may vote understandingly upon them and creditably discharge the duties imposed upon you. Of necessity, a great portion of the detail work of the Conclave must be done by committees, but approvals of their reports should not be merely perfunctory. The committees will not claim to be infallible, and if their reports do not meet your approval, do not conceal your dissent therefrom. You may be right, and the body is entitled to the benefit of your views. Let nothing be done hastily. If, with due deliberation we cannot, in a session of one short day, properly discharge the duties imposed upon us, we ought to remain longer. Certain questions of great importance will be presented, upon which there has existed during the year an extreme, yet good natured and honest, difference of opinion between your Grand Commander and Eminent Sir Knights, whose opinions are entitled to the greatest respect. These questions are hereinafter submitted. I bespeak for them such earnest, thoughtful and deliberate consideration as their importance requires, and as is demanded by a due respect for the rights of Sir Knights affected thereby. Those who differ upon these questions desire to know, not so much who is right, but to know *what* is right in regard to the subject matter of difference.

We have good reason to congratulate the Sir Knights, the Subordinate Commanderies and ourselves upon the present excellent condition of the Order and its rapid growth in this Grand Jurisdiction. This Grand Commandery was formed on the 22d day of May, in the year 1860, by three Commanderies, viz. : St. Louis Commandery, No. 1, represented by twelve Sir Knights ; Weston Commandery, No. 2, represented by five Sir Knights, and Lexington Commandery, No. 3, represented by three Sir Knights. Within the period of thirty-five years, Subordinate Commanderies have so multiplied in this State that to-day their number is fifty-seven. The exact number of members of each of said three Commanderies in the year 1860 I do not know, but from the returns of Subordinate Commanderies for the year 1863, I gather that there were then two hundred and ninety-nine members of Commanderies in this great State. From that number, the membership of Commanderies has so

increased that at the beginning of the present calendar year, the aggregate membership, as disclosed by the annual returns to be submitted to this Conclave, was over *four thousand*.

We should be glad to have copied the entire opening, but space forbids—or lack of it.

Eloquent and appropriate tribute is paid to the Knightly dead of his own and other Jurisdictions. We find but one thing to condemn in this part of the address, and that is the following specimen of machine poetry which is, no doubt, taken from some one of the numerous song books which are supplanting the hymns of our childhood and which the devil has inspired some people to write, others to publish and sell, and still others to inflict on a long suffering public, set to operatic and minstrel airs, calling it "Sacred Music!" Compared with the old-fashioned hymns and sacred melodies, these "jingles" are utterly contemptible, not one in a hundred of them possessing the least grain of poetic merit, or anything else that commends itself to human intelligence. However, here is the text for the above remarks:

"For there is no night there,  
But one endless day  
In that beautiful home  
Away, far away."

"Just beyond the river  
That land I see,  
Loved ones are waiting  
To welcome thee."

"Why are we troubled here below?  
To that beautiful land we soon shall go.  
Who will meet us? What shall we see,  
When we get over the Jasper Sea?"

Regarding the Orphans' Home, he has this to say, among other things:

To appreciate the Home, one must see it. If time would permit, it would be my request that this assembly of Knights should go in a body and see the little ones and become personally acquainted with the institution. The report submitted discloses that on July 31st last, there were being sheltered and cared for in the Home a total of seventy-five persons. About sixty of them are children. Much praise is due to the directors and officers of the Home, as well as those having immediate charge thereof, for efficient and painstaking discharge of laborious duties.

I have been able to visit the Home twice during the year. What I saw on those occasions kindled a desire to visit it oftener. As I contemplate those children taken from the shadows of misfortune and poverty, which blighted and made desolate their own homes, bereft, in most instances, of parental care, and gathered under the charitable roof of a new home, with surroundings entirely strange to them, no better evidence is needed of the care and attention they receive than is evidenced by their healthy appearance, their manifest contentment, their cheerful smiles, and prompt obedience of the slightest request of those in their immediate charge. Among this large number of children, I did



not see, during either visit, a discontented face. The report submitted will disclose, among other things, the effort being made by the officers, in an educational way, to fit these wards of ours to secure honorable recognition in the battle of life.

Some extensions have been made during the year, which will afford a greater amount of room and which is very much needed.

As we are doing something along these lines, we doubt not you will read the extract with pleasure and a quickening of interest in our own efforts in behalf of these children of God.

He issued a large number of dispensations, but all for legitimate purposes.

His decisions, also, were quite numerous and exhaustive, and all in accord with the laws as they stand. Many pages of this remarkable address are taken up in reviewing decisions regarding the status of non-affiliated Master and R. A. Masons before the order of the Temple. There is so much of it that we do not feel like trying to give a synopsis and, as the matter was still pending an appeal to the Grand Encampment when the address was made, we will wait until next time when the subject will be finally disposed of. The address covers seventy-three pages, and is the longest on record, so far as we know. Its author's phiz adorns the title page of the pamphlet, and we judge from his looks as well as his address, that he is no sardine! *Scarcely!!*

The Order is in excellent condition. The minutes are voluminous, but we will only clip the report on the Masonic Home:

REPORT OF MASONIC HOME FROM AUGUST 1, 1894, TO APRIL 20, 1895.

There were seventy-five inmates in the Home, August 1, 1894.

Since that time, twelve have been admitted. Bro. Lewis Holden died August 15, 1894, and Mrs. Nancy Myers died January 26, 1895. Mrs. Holman and her two children, and Mrs. Mathis and her two children have left the Home since last report, leaving seventy-nine inmates April 20, 1895. Of this number, thirty-seven are girls, twenty-three boys, thirteen women and six old brothers.

The Board has granted the applications for admission of six children and one widow, in addition to the above, but they have not yet arrived at the Home.

Two frame houses have been presented to the Home, one containing ten rooms, by Bro. Norman J. Colman, and one smaller size by Bro. Thomas Wright. These houses have been moved on to the Home grounds, and fixed up at an expense of about two thousand dollars and have given us fifteen additional rooms, thus enabling the Board of Directors to admit a number, who otherwise could not have been received.

The Board has opened two streets on the property, with the intention of selling a portion of the ground when the market warrants it.

This has necessitated a considerable outlay for sewers and other improvements, but has increased the value of the property much more than the amount invested.

## RECEIPTS FROM AUGUST 1, 1894, TO APRIL 20, 1895.

From Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Missouri.....	\$13,869 50
Knights Templar of St. Louis; Christmas service.....	42 07
Knights Templar of Kansas City; Christmas service.....	46 56
Ararat Temple A. A. O. N. M. S., Kansas City.....	25 00
Moolah Temple A. A. O. N. M. S., St. Louis.....	200 00
Paris Union Lodge, No. 10, Paris .....	10 00
Corinthian Chapter, No. 112, O. E. S., at Gallatin.....	7 00
Sale of Grapes and Live Stock at the Home.....	190 25
Mite Box at the Home.....	6 22
Insurance for fire loss .....	28 00
Sale of Bond .....	500 00
Notes and Interest .....	230 80
Interest on Bonds, Loan and Deposits .....	2,316 75
Total .....	\$17,472 95

## RECEIPTS FOR SANITARIUM FUND.

From Grand Commandery K. T. of Missouri.....	\$ 3,400 25
Grand Chapter R. A. M. of Missouri.....	3,132 00
Grand Chapter O. E. S. of Missouri.....	300 00
Order of High Priesthood.....	100 00
Total .....	\$ 6,933 35

## EXPENDITURES.

For Groceries, Clothing, School Supplies, Medicine, Light and Furniture .....	\$ 5,606 93
Hired Help and Laundry.....	1,530 39
Printing and Postage.....	79 60
Building and Repairs .....	4,200 16
Taxes, Water and Telephone .....	2,316 39
Cemetery Lot and Funeral Expenses .....	470 00
Superintendent's and Matron's Salary, nine months .....	825 00
Secretary's Salary—eight months .....	400 00
Total .....	\$15,428 47

There is now in the hands of the Treasurer:

Bonds to account Knights Templar Endowment Fund.....	\$50,000 00
Note secured by Deed of Trust .....	2,000 00
Cash to Account General Fund.....	5,526 79
Cash to Account Sanitarium Fund.....	6,933 37
Total.....	\$64,460 16

Fraternally submitted,

JOHN A. PARSON, Secretary.

Correspondence report covering 77 pages, is the finished work of Grand Recorder W. H. Mayo, and reviews the transactions of nearly the whole list of governing Templar Bodies, Mississippi for 1894 among the rest. Referring to Bro. Speed's report on non-affiliates, he says:

"We are sorry that we cannot devote the space to reproduce his elaborate argument. We commend its perusal to all interested in this vexed question."

He says, in connection with our report:

"The world is growing better everywhere, so are we all, so is Sir DeLap."

We beg to dissent from the first proposition. The *world* is *not* growing better. On the contrary, it looks to us very much like the time for the reign of the devil, for a thousand years, is about here. Nearly everybody belongs to some one of the churches, and have joined under the impression that church membership is equivalent to a through ticket to the New Jerusalem, when the hottest corner of hades is reserved for just this sort of christians, who have the *form* but deny the *power* of godliness.

We congratulate Bro. Mayo on his election as Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment. Had we been present he would have received our vote.

R.: E.: Sir L. Orear (what a cognomen!) Marshall is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as of yore.

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#### MASSACHUSETTS—1894.

The Semi-Annual was held in the City of Providence, May 24th. The attendance was large and the session an interesting one.

The address of the R.: E.: was quite lengthy but devoted to local matters, to a large extent. He issued the usual batch of dispensations, but all for proper purposes. His decisions were unimportant.

The proceedings are local. One new Commandery was chartered. A per capita tax of \$5.00 was levied upon the entire membership to meet the expenses incident to the meeting of the Grand Encampment in Boston. The question naturally arises: Was the game worth the cost? We think not.

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The Eighty-eighth Annual was held in Boston, October 25th. R.: E.: Sir Chas. C. Fry, Grand Commander; E. Sir Benjamin W. Rowell, Grand Recorder. The Representatives of 43 Subordinate Commanderies, 17 P. G. Officers and a multitude of P. E. Commanders were present, enough to make the total vote 225.

The annual address is quite long, but is an elegant paper. He opens as follows:

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery:

Another year has rolled by, and again we meet to deliberate upon the affairs of this Grand Commandery. It was thought that the year just passed would be one of great interest to Templar Masonry; preceding the year of the Triennial Conclave it was expected to be of unusual activity, but a business depression almost unparalleled in our history has undoubtedly prevented the increase of membership which we so confidently hoped for. But as we review the records of the Subordinate Commanderies for the past year, we find that notwithstanding the unfortunate condition of business our beloved Order has made encouraging

progress, and we believe with the present prospect of a return of brighter days that the year upon which we are about entering will witness, not only in this jurisdiction, but all over the United States, an interest in Templar Masonry never before known.

He issued a large number of religious permits and it is to be hoped that some good resulted, spiritually, to the recipients. We note that many of the Commanderies in this jurisdiction have honorary members, some of them as high as 17. Boston Commandery, No. 2, has 748 members—450 of whom are uniformed. At \$5.00 a head—Triennial tax—the sum of \$3,740.00 would be taken from this body alone! Quite an expensive luxury is the Grand Encampment. Here is some more of the "Permission to Invade" nonsense:

Permission was asked by me of the Grand Commander of New Hampshire for De Molay, Cœur de Lion, Haverhill and Cambridge Commanderies, of the Grand Commander of Maine for Cœur de Lion, Haverhill and Cambridge Commanderies, and of the Grand Commander of New York for St. Paul Commandery, to enter their respective jurisdictions. In each case the request was cheerfully granted and hopes expressed that the visits of the several Commanderies might be of interest and pleasure.

It was my privilege to grant to the Grand Commander of Maine permission for Dunlap Commandery to enter the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery and to procure and approve for the Grand Commander of New York a release of jurisdiction.

When will our Northern and Eastern brethren learn that there are no foreign jurisdictions within the limits of the United States, that we are one family and have a right to visit each other and take tea, without any red tape about it?

The proceedings contain nothing of general interest. Total membership 10,384—a gain of 473!

The Correspondence is again double-barreled, being the joint production of our clerical friends, Rugg and French. Although we are not partial to this sort of thing we can more easily endure the strain for the reason that the report is first-class in all respects.

The "Opening Chorus" follows, but we are in the dark as to which of the two is its author:

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

The report herewith presented has been prepared on the same general plan which has been followed heretofore. By an arrangement mutually satisfactory to the two members of the committee, the work of review has been divided, each writer being left free to exercise his own judgment as to selections taken from the proceedings examined and comments thereon, and also at liberty to declare his own opinions upon any and all matters of Templar interest. The initial of the reviewer, placed at the close of each jurisdiction hereinafter noted, will indicate the individual work and responsibility of the committee.

It may properly be stated in this connection that the writers of this paper have had no opportunity to compare notes, to consider what subjects should be emphasized in their respective reviews, or to decide upon any course of procedure in the discussion of the topics brought to their

attention by the different publications read and examined; but while some divergence of method and of views may be noted, it is believed that the present report will show a substantial unity of sentiment on the part of its authors, respecting the most important matters brought under consideration. Most certainly the writers of the following pages are in close sympathy respecting the principles and purposes of Templary, and their attachment to the Order has grown with many years' experience within its lines.

In reading the reports and proceedings placed in our hands for the purposes of this review, we note the skill and ability with which these papers have been prepared. The published papers of Grand Commanderies in the different jurisdictions are for the most part creditable productions. They are well printed pamphlets or volumes, containing valuable information arranged in such a manner as to enhance its worth, and frequently they are made additionally attractive by portraits or other embellishments. It has been a pleasant task to turn the pages of these annual publications having so inviting an appearance, with contents that do not disappoint the expectant thought.

The reports on Correspondence, now generally included in such proceedings, evince ability, research, and Templar zeal on the part of the various writers. Reports such as these afford a rich ministry of instruction and edification. They deal with matters of immediate interest as connected with the movements of Grand and Subordinate Templar Bodies, and they likewise find place for a treatment of important questions pertaining to Masonic and Templar law. Beyond this they have value in enforcing the sublime lessons of the Templar system and making more apparent its grand purposes of practical and chivalric usefulness. Our brother Correspondents have done excellent work in the preparation of the report now in hand; and, although their papers may not be read as extensively as could be desired, we may not doubt that they will contribute some increase of light and truth within the lines of our communion—at least that they will interpose some barriers against tendencies which threaten to detract from the intellectual and moral glory of our cherished institution.

Our present work is entered upon at a time when the prosperity of the Templar Order affords a special cause of encouragement. We write in the spirit of hope and confidence. Harmony and good feeling prevail throughout all the jurisdictions. From every part of the country comes one and the same announcement, that, notwithstanding financial stringency, the year covered by this review has been one of unparalleled advance for the Order of Knights Templar. The Order has a greater strength in numbers and resources than ever before. Its benign character is more generally acknowledged; it has less of opposition to encounter; its influence and its usefulness are alike enhanced. Recognizing these auspicious conditions we apply ourselves with glad and grateful thought, to the preparation of this report.

Most of the Templar world receives due and courteous consideration from these eminent reviewers; Mississippi for 1894 getting nearly four pages. The review is exceedingly courteous and kind and is highly appreciated at this end of the line. Referring to Bro. Speed's Law Report he (Bro. Rugg) has this to say, among other things:

Bro. Speed presents a strong argument in favor of the application of the doctrine of Grand Lodge sovereignty to the widest possible extent. On general principles we agree with him. He seems, however, to imply an interpretation of the rule of Grand Encampment other than that intended by its supporters. It is, as we understand the matter, only such

affiliates as are not under suspension by action of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction, who are entitled to be candidates for the Orders of Knighthood, or who, being members of a Commandery, are not disqualified for the holding of such membership. When a Grand Lodge acts as the Grand Lodge of Mississippi has—fixing the status of a non-affiliate Mason to be the same as that of a suspended or expelled Mason, there can be no question of disqualification in the Commandery—within that jurisdiction. We think the legislation of the Grand Encampment on the subject does not bar the way to such a logical result.

Bro. Rugg has some pleasant words to say of this Committee, for which we are grateful. We clip a single paragraph:

Reviewing Montana, Bro. De Lap finds a suggestive text in Bro. Cornelius Hedges' earnest call, *Liberanda est Palestina*, and expresses some interest in the proposed enterprise with which he offers to be associated as quartermaster. This shows the resolute character of our Mississippi brother, for certainly it would be no light task to furnish supplies for a host of Sir Knights such as we may suppose will rally to the standard of Sir Cornelius when he gives the word for a forward movement to deliver Palestine.

We are inclined to think that the office of Armorer would be better than Quartermaster, for the reason that one outfit would last the doughty Knights through the entire campaign, while there would be a constant and growing demand for transportation (home), for forage and subsistence. What we want is the best results at the least possible outlay of energy and work.

There are lots of good things in the paper under consideration, but as we have already given our brethren quite a large slice of our space, and as their pamphlet for the current year may reach us before our report is closed, we will say, good bye and God bless you.

R.: E.: Samuel C. Lawrence is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporters same as before.

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#### MARYLAND—1894.

A Special Conclave was held in Baltimore March 26th, for the purpose of installing the officers elect of the Subordinate Commanderies, amending its By-Laws—raising dues of Subordinate Commanderies 100 per cent., or from \$1.00 to \$3.00, and receiving report of committee having the question of requiring each applicant for the orders to pay a sufficient sum to procure a complete uniform. The elevation of dues was laid on the table; the officers were duly installed; the committee on uniform referred to above failed to report, and the Conclave was closed.

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Twenty-fourth Annual was also held in Baltimore, November 27th. There were present: R.: E.: Sir James Preller Clark, Grand Commander, E.: Sir John Henry Miller, Grand Recorder, the Representatives of twenty-eight Grand Commanderies, including ours, a long list of Past Grand Officers, and Representatives of eight Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is an elegant paper, reviewing his administration and eloquently expatiating on matters of the utmost importance to travelers through this vale of tears, who are seeking a city with "foundations, whose builder and maker is God." We copy the opening:

**FRATERS:** Winter and summer have come and gone, seed time and harvest have passed, and I congratulate you on being permitted to assemble on this, the Twenty-fourth Annual Conclave of our Grand Body to which I greet and welcome you.

Our first and imperative duty is to bow in reverence and adoration to Almighty God who has been pleased to spare our lives, preserve our health, and shower so many rich blessings upon us during the past year; and as the traveler stops at the close of day to see how it has been spent, so should we look back over the year just closed and examine our foot prints on the sands of time and ascertain wherein we have erred in judgment, or proven unkind to our fellow man in thought, word or deed; where we have been lacking in faith during trying hours; where hope has been dim and charity cold, that we may determine in the future, relying upon the aid of the Grand Captain of our salvation, to live nobler and holier lives.

The year that has passed by so swiftly, although uneventful as to prominent occurrences, has been one of peace and prosperity.

Brotherly love has prevailed in all our deliberations and devotion and loyalty to our beloved Order have ruled supreme throughout our jurisdiction; we are at peace with ourselves and the Templar world.

He decided that an office in a Commandery is not vacated by the suspension of the officer for any cause. This may be good Templar law, but we confess our inability to believe that it is.

He has this to say, among other things, of the matter of making petitioners pay a sum sufficient to equip them, in addition to the regular fees:

I would, therefore, recommend that while there is so much diversity of opinion on this subject the law be left as it is now, as it does not prevent a Sir Knight from uniforming as soon as he is dubbed; on the other hand obligatory uniforming might keep some good men out of the Order who would otherwise become Knights Templar and procure the necessary uniform at a later date.

This paragraph has the ring of true metal about it, and we commend its author. The Order certainly has a higher mission than that of dressing a human soul in a fancy uniform, a cocked hat and a "trusty sword." I would hate to be in reach of some of my best friends when they are exercising with these same "trusty claymores."

He quotes a verse from the familiar old hymn—"How Firm a Foundation, etc.," but as he is a little shaky in his rendition of it, we give it as it should be, followed by his translation:

"E'en down to old age all *my* people shall prove  
*My* sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they *shall* still in *my* bosom be borne."

This is the way Bro. Clark has it :

“ E'en down to old age all your people shall prove  
Your sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love ;  
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they shall still in thy bosom be borne.”

Putting Maryland Commandery, No. 1, in place of our Divine Master, in its devotion to its veteran members, which to us, has an odor of sacrilege about it that our brother did not intend. Perhaps we are supersensitive, but this old hymn, which has for its base one of the most comforting Psalms of David, so aptly and so beautifully describes God's dealings with His children, that we dislike to see it appropriated to uses of a baser sort.

The proceedings were routine and local.

One hundred and twelve pages of the pamphlet are occupied by the report of our good brother P. G. C. Gorgas, which is the best one he ever wrote, and he writes no poor ones. Thirty-nine Templar Grand Bodies receive due and courteous attention in this report, our own pamphlet for 1894 getting over seven pages. He is a little off color in his programme of the “Devotional Offices,” at Holly Springs, but as that episode has been sufficiently discussed, we will only say that the Grand Prelate—a Methodist preacher, conducted the service, preached a sermon, which was followed by the remarks of the P. E. Bishop of this Diocese.

He copies the Law Report entire, and you all know that our Fred. is brief in nothing but statue! However, as the report is couched in excellent English, and is sensible from start to finish, we commend Bro. G.'s good judgment in increasing its circulation.

Our Bro. has some pleasant words for this Committee, as usual, which we much appreciate. He quotes our “Conclusion,” and remarks:

But after all, Sir De Lap, the presence of the sword in a church is of little account, if the proper spirit is there in the hearts of the Sir Knights, and the lessons taught, like good seed, produce a good harvest. If you had stood with me a few years ago in St. Peter's at Rome, and witnessed the intense feeling which pervaded the breasts of the majority of the thirty thousand spectators present on that occasion when Pope Leo was carried on the shoulders of men between the ranks of two thousand gorgeously attired soldiers armed with muskets, you must have acknowledged that the spirit will manifest itself even in the midst of the trappings of war.

In all of which we could concur but for the presence of so many “ifs.” These are what play smash with the whole lay-out. May God bless Bro. G. and all our brethren of Maryland.

R. E. Sir William H. Martin is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.



## MAINE—1895.

Forty-fourth Annual at Portland, May 9th, R. E.: William J. Landus, Grand Commander; R. E.: Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder; sixteen out of nineteen Subordinate Commanderies were represented; twelve P. G. Commanders and quite an array of Grand Representatives were also present, including the venerable Drummond for Mississippi.

The Grand Commander's address is a business paper, and is devoted mostly to local interests. He reports a healthy growth in the membership. Let us hope that the prospect of a trip to "Bosting" and a good time had nothing to do with new crop of Templars in the Pine Tree State.

His dispensations were numerous, but for proper purposes. Among them we find one authorizing one Commandery to confer the order of Matta at the request of another, the creating Commandery, which, being a simple act of courtesy only, we think the dispensation unnecessary.

His visitations were quite general, and, no doubt, will result in good. He quotes but one decision, which follows:

An Eminent Commander writes: "We have a candidate for the orders of Knighthood, who has recently taken the Keeley Cure, and I am uncertain of the effects of the libation upon him. Would it be permissible to use a substitute for the wine usually administered?" I answered yes, by all means. And I would say that while the new ritual differs from the preceding one, in not providing for emergencies of this character, the Order of Christian Knighthood aims to upbuild rather than tear down, and I recommend that in cases of this nature, which are very liable to hereafter occur (there have been two to my knowledge the past year,) that the matter be left entirely to the discretion of the Eminent Commanders.

Which decision was endorsed by the Grand Body, as it should have been.

Several of the staff submitted reports as Inspecting Officers, which show that the Order is in good shape in that jurisdiction.

Under the head of "Triennial Conclave," he recommends an appropriation sufficient to enable "your Grand Council to make Maine's headquarters, in point of hospitality and attractiveness, equal at least to those of sister jurisdictions." Three hundred dollars having already been set apart for headquarters, we can only account for the demand for more under the supposition that "Mum's Extra Dry" and "Jersey Lightning" have "riz" in price. If these refreshments were of such a character as would nourish the body and not muddle the brain, we would keep still. If it is the duty of members of the Order to parade, in uniform on Templar holy days, it is no less their duty even as E. A. Masons, to avoid intemperance and excess, more especially when under the scrutiny of the multitude and on Templar occasions. The fact that this rule is frequently violated on these Triennial occasions, is the prime cause of our opposition to the Grand Encampment.

The proceedings are routine and local. Maine has 2,004 Templars.

Our old friend and brother, Stephen Berry, is the author of the Correspondence report in which the minutes of most of the Templar governing bodies are noticed in his usual style. His "Opening Chorus" follows:

Your chairman begins his twentieth annual report in midsummer, when the grass grows green, swinging in a hammock, on a veranda, under a leafy oak. The thermometer is at ninety in town, but the westlin' wind blowing across the cool waters of Casco Bay, and the rippling murmur of the waves upon the shore below, bring a refreshing sense of coolness. Over across on the opposite island is where Fisk of Kentucky spends his summers when he comes North, and here is where Grand Master Dean used to anchor, in his yachting days, when he came back from Bar Harbor. Beside the hammock is the big rustic chair in which Connor of Tennessee used to sit and look across the bay, wondering if it could be possible that the whole country was sweltering under a hot wave and yet be so comfortable here. It seems but the other day that he came strolling over the grassy road through the mowing field, and along the bank where the Indians in old times held their feasts, and now his genial voice is hushed forever, and the birds sing over his grave where he lies sleeping below Lookout Mountain.

So it ever is. Bright spirits come from unknown space, briefly cross our orbits, and go out, we know not whither, and they never pass this way again; but they leave a flash of radiance on their paths which never fades from our lives.

Mississippi for 1894 gets courteous attention. We clip the following for the information of "Our Fred," the author of the Law Report:

The Committee on Templar Law made a long report, deciding that the Grand Lodge law, forbidding fellowship to non-affiliates, overrides the Grand Encampment law permitting Commanderies to receive them. We understand that the Grand Encampment expressly recognizes that fact wherever such Grand Lodge law prevails.

If Stephen is correct Fred has spent a considerable amount of brain force unnecessarily.

R.: E.: Sir Fred. S. Walls is Grand Commander; R.: E.: Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

#### MINNESOTA—1895.

Thirtieth Annual at St. Cloud, June 24th. Present: R.: E.: Sir W. H. S. Wright, Grand Commander; R.: E.: Sir Thomas Montgomery, Grand Recorder; 8 Past Grand Chancellors, several other Past Grand officers, and Past Eminent Commanders, and the Representatives of 19 out of 25 Subordinate Commanderies, and Representatives of 19 Grand Commanderies.

An excellent portrait of the Grand Commander makes an admirable frontispiece for the pamphlet. We like the face. If there is anything treacherous or mean about the original we will quit posing as a judge of the handwriting of the Creator of the Universe. He opens a well written and interesting address as follows:

It is my privilege to bid you welcome to the Thirtieth Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery, and I extend to each and all of you most cordial greeting. The past year has not been an eventful one, yet, notwithstanding the adverse financial conditions which have prevailed throughout our jurisdiction, the returns of the Commanderies show an increase in membership, which, under the circumstances, is very gratifying. In accordance with established usage, it is my duty at this time to lay before you an account of my official acts; and I shall do so in plain words and without any attempt at oratory or homily.

The Angel of Death has not invaded the ranks of this Grand Body during the year now closing, but many of our sister jurisdictions have ample cause for mourning.

Appropriate mention is made of the magnanimous dead of other jurisdictions. His dispensations were few and for proper purposes. He visited quite a number of his Subordinate Commanderies, had a pleasant time at each and, we doubt not, accomplished much good. The reports of the staff officers are full, but confined to local matters.

The proceedings are local. Total membership 2,335—a gain of 55. Total receipts, \$1,505.50. We note that Sir Thomas gets \$100.00 for his Correspondence report, while we only get half so much for ours. Somebody is enriched in this transaction, probably the undersigned.

Bro. Montgomery is again the author of the Correspondence report which, though brief, is, like its predecessors, an excellent one. It is his sixth effort in this line, and reviews the minutes of thirty-four Templar Legislatures in his courteous and winning style. Mississippi for 1895 gets nearly two pages. He closes his review of our last report as follows:

Minnesota, for 1894, is allotted three pages. He thinks a dispensation from the Grand Commander healing the unintentional breach of law, as reported last year, would have been better than the course ordered. He prints the preface to our report entire, also the poem "Where's Duluth," and adds: "As a poet Bro. M. is a success. As a reporter he is more than a success—he is a prodigy," and dubs us poet laureate. Well, well, what may we not look for next. A closer inspection, Bro. De Lap, will show you that the credit for the poetry must be accorded our friend, T. W. Hugo, Past Grand Commander.

It doesn't make any difference who the author of "Where's Duluth" is, he is a poet and a brick. No doubt our good Bro. Thomas *could* write poetry equal to Whittier's best, if he tried.

Bro. Montgomery indulges in very little criticism, which is wrong.

He closes his report as follows:

We close our report and statistical table July 15th without having received the proceedings of Nebraska for April, or Alabama, Kentucky and West Virginia for May, which we regret. Wisconsin for June 1894, was briefly mentioned last year. This year they meet in October. The growth of the Order is steady, about twelve per cent. above all losses during the past three years. Twenty-five years ago there were 30,000 Knights Templar in the United States in good standing, now there are 105,000, an average gain of 3,000 per annum. What a wonderful influence for all that is noble, great and good could be exercised in this fair land of ours if every member of this Templar host lived up to his vows and exemplified

in his daily life the sublime principles of our valiant and magnanimous Order. We are happy to report that peace and harmony exist throughout the Templar world, and that in the discussion of such questions as make for the well being of the Order the utmost good feeling prevails. So may it ever be.

R.: E.: Sir H. E. Whitney is Grand Commander; R.: E.: Sir Thos. Montgomery, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

#### MICHIGAN—1895.

Thirty-ninth Annual at Saginaw, May 21st. Present: R.: E.: Sir Charles H. Pomeroy, Grand Commander; R.: E.: John A. Gerow, Grand Recorder, M.: E.: Hugh McCurdy, Grand Master Grand Encampment, who received a distinguished and hearty welcome and made a characteristically good speech in reply. All the staff officers were also there, together with seventeen Past Grand Commanders and Representatives of forty-three Subordinate Commanderies.

The R.: E.: opens an excellent address as follows:

We are again assembled in Annual Conclave to perform the duties required of us as members of this Grand Body. After a year's separation it is pleasant to meet once more around one common altar and renew and strengthen the fraternal bonds which bind us to each other, and grasp the hands in cordial greeting of those whom we have tried and proved, and have learned to love as our own flesh and blood. Ours is such a meeting. May the blessings of Heaven rest upon us and the labors in which we are engaged. May harmony mark all our doings. May kind feelings and fraternal affection make stronger the chords that bind us to each other, and when this Conclave is ended, may we all be able to truthfully say that great good has been the result.

Notwithstanding the prevailing hard times this has been the most prosperous year save one in point of members Knighted in the history of this Grand Commandery. So far as I know all is peace and harmony within our borders, and nothing has happened to disturb the amicable relations existing between this Grand Jurisdiction and all others.

Appropriate mention is made of the magnanimous dead of his own and sister jurisdictions. He issued the following anent Christmas libation:

To the Eminent Commanders, Officers and Sir Knights of the Commanderies of Knights Templar of Michigan:

Participating as I do in the spirit of the above, I hereby earnestly invite you to assemble at your respective Asylums on Tuesday, December 25th, at 11 o'clock A. M., standard time, and there join in the sentiments proposed in honor of our beloved Grand Master. This invitation includes "all true Templars and their friends." Sir Knights, I construe "and their friends" to mean the ladies, for they are our friends so long as we conduct ourselves in a manner to deserve their friendship, and continue to practice what we profess. I therefore recommend that they too be included and that they participate if they choose in the ceremonies of the occasion.

I am also of the opinion that the good wife of our Most Eminent Grand Master is justly entitled to and should receive the share of atten-

tion due her by reason of the position she fills, as one of the leading ladies of America. Let us all conduct ourselves on that day, and all others in fact, in such a manner that will lead them to feel that they are never forgotten by the Templars "and their friends" in Michigan.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Commandery  
[SEAL.] the day and year first above written.

CHARLES H. POMEROY,  
Grand Commander.

If the toast is drank in pure water, or any non-spiritous liquid, we accept the amendment. If wine is to be used, let the ladies remain at home. If we *must* stultify ourselves, let us do it as quiet and unostentatiously as possible.

He issued quite a lot of dispensations, but all for sensible purposes.

His decisions were sound, but confined to local matters, mostly. His visitations were quite general, and no doubt, resulted in much good.

A fine portrait of the R. E. adorns the frontispiece.

We find this in Grand Recorder's report:

Returns having been received from all the Subordinate Commanderies, I am enabled to report the following as the results of the Temp-lar year:

Knighted, 416; admitted, 114; reinstated, 6; total, 536; from which deduct: Dimitted, 118; suspended for U. M. C., 2; suspended for N. P. D., 58; expelled, 3; died, 80; total, 261; leaving a net increase of 275. The present membership is 5,373.

A right healthy growth. We find nothing further of general interest in the minutes.

Past Grand Commander and Grand Recorder Gerow is the architect of the Correspondence report, which covers 270 pages of the pamphlet, reviews the proceedings of thirty-eight Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1894 coming in for her full quota of courteous attention.

Under "Colorado" we find the following sensible deliverance on whisky selling Templars:

The second paragraph is all right and sound Templar law, but the first is rather shaky, if it is not expressly forbidden for a Knight Templar to open a bar in his hotel. There is far too much of this whipping the devil around the stump and we would be untrue to our convictions as to the sense of a Templar's obligation were we not to here enter our protest against such a decision. The liquor traffic has labored hard to connect itself with Masonry and still continues to do so. We may not have such a law in so many words to prevent the identification of a Sir Knight with the saloon business, neither have we the decalogue written in our Constitution. But we have an *unwritten* law that meets the demand of decency and consistency. This law the Denver Frater has set at naught in his decision, and he has not done wisely. He should have erred on the side of virtue and told that Sir Knight that Templarism did not invite the anathema resting upon him, "who putteth the bottle to his neighbor's lips." In the name of Him who died to make men holy let us ignore the trade that damns men's bodies and souls. Per contra to the above liberty to a Sir Knight to open a bar in his hotel we have the following exhortation from the same lips in the same breath.

We had occasion to make a few remarks on the same "decision" in our last report and are glad to have Bro. Gerow on our side. Our good Bro. devotes more than a "Baker's dozen" pages of his truly admirable report to Mississippi. He quotes the entire law report with this preface:

With such a Sir Knight as Frederic Speed, as Chairman of the Committee on Templar Law, we feel like giving the whole of the report he presents upon such an important subject, and without adding any comment:

He then adds:

This we believe to be the right conclusion, but the law should be amended in the Grand Encampment.

We promised to make no comment, but must say, that we sincerely trust this conflict between the law of the Grand Encampment and that of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi may be harmonized at the approaching triennial. The Committee report was adopted.

There is about as much likelihood of the Grand Encampment receding from its unrighteous position on the subject as there is of its doing any other sensible act, and that is *none* at all. The principal business of the concern seems to be to legislate away all the rights, privileges and prerogatives of the Subordinate Commanderies, a matter that belongs entirely to the State Grand Bodies.

Bro. Gerow's review of our last report is very full, complimentary and fraternal. We clip the following expression of his views on a somewhat vexed question:

IT IS NOT A GOOD LAW.

Speaking of the law of perpetual jurisdiction as held in Illinois, Sir De Lap thinks it is good law. We demur and think it excessively bad law. We do not believe however that when a candidate is rejected he should have the liberty to make immediate application in some other place and find no hinderance. It is a terrible thing to place the ban of Masonry or Templarism on a man who may be the victim of some personal venom. Suppose he was rejected in some Michigan Commandery and removed to New York, where for several years he lived an upright and consistent life, as a business man and good citizen. But for all this good character he could not become a Sir Knight because the vote on a waiver, where he was rejected, was not clear. This is simply an outrage and bad law to rest upon the foundations of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The man should have a chance to be free from this nemesis.

Much can be said on either side and, as we are not at all well this morning, will not attempt a reply to our Brother's forceful presentment of his side of the question.

Referring to some of our former fulminations on the subject of attending church in uniform he plainly intimates that there is a possibility of our being "righteous overmuch" and further along sizes us up along with Judas Iscariot, who grumbled at the waste of ointment and suggested that it *should* have been sold for three hundred pence and the money given to the poor—he, Judas, being the poor.

In all this we are sure our Brother is in error. Our convictions along this line are not the result of over-righteousness, nor of a disposition to find fault, but are the direct fruits of careful observation and a knowledge of my own heart when engaged in *such* devotions (?) as these.

We again use the scissors :

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

Sir De Lap voices largely our sentiments over that silly embroglio in Minnesota, where the matter of "undue soliciting" for candidates for a Commandery, raises a dust in that jurisdiction.

And yet this is a growing evil in Chapter, Council and Commandery. Undue solicitation is carried on to too great extent and one disastrous result is, that Master Masons and Chapter Masons are induced to take degrees in Masonry that places an additional burden upon them, not warranted by their income. This is anything but fraternal and is one great reason for so much non-affiliates, and they are forced from lack of means to fall behind. We believe that the Investigating Committee should inquire, in every questionable case, "can he afford it?" Let us stop making non-affiliates by ceasing undue solicitation.

All of which looks plausible and, no doubt, contain a large element of truth. But Bro. G's objections to the practice are entirely different from those of our Minnesota Fraters. His are based on the law of expediency and kindness; theirs upon the assumption that the practice is Masonically culpable.

He closes his voluminous but exceptionally good report as follows :

We have reached the end of our task, and whether the work be good and square remains for the overseers to report. The labor has been a pleasant one and one that we could willingly linger over. To find mind associated with kindred mind on subjects in which all are equally interested is a nearness of fellowship that cannot be successfully rivaled. If we have differed from some of our fellow Fraters in our view of great subjects which touch the vitality of Templarism, the contention has been in the spirit of brotherly love. We do not hold to acrimonious debate or insistence of personal view. Ours only to place the aspect in which the question strikes us before our Fraters. Our pen has been dipped in the milk of human kindness and not in the gall of captious criticism. Hence wherein we may have erred or came short we ask that the head and not the heart be charged with the same.

Sir Wm. E. Jewett is R. E. Grand Commander; R. E. John A. Gerow, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### MONTANA—1895.

Eighth Annual at Helena, October 8th. R. E. Michael C. Riley, Grand Commander; R. E. Cornelius Hedges, Grand Recorder; eight Subordinate Commanderies represented.

The Grand Commander's address is very short, is well written, but entirely local in its references, except his remarks about Bro. Cornelius, which are as follows :

But more especially is my gratitude due to our Grand Recorder, Sir

Hedges, of whom so much has been written in praise by my predecessors that it seems superfluous to add thereto, I will therefore content myself by reiterating what has already been said and add "That the half has not been told." And should he at any time raise the standard for the reconquest of the Holy Land, I shall deem it my duty to go forward and spy out the land. But unlike Josua's scouts, I will endeavor to lodge in more respectable quarters. Although the land at this late day may not be overflowing with "milk and honey," yet a few "Hedges" like our Grand Recorder, would soon make it a land overflowing with the milk of human kindness.

Our Bro. deserves all the praise accorded him by those who know him best.

A portrait of the Grand Commander adorns the title page. He is young in years, but has a good face. The proceedings are devoid of general interest. Total membership 324—a net loss of 13.

The Correspondence covers sixty-eight pages, and is the work of the genial and irrepressible Grand Recorder, Sir Cornelius Hedges. It is all wool and fast colors as usual. His attention to Mississippi for 1895 is full, pleasant and fraternal. We clip:

A picture of the lamented Brannin serves a frontispiece, missed and mourned in every department of the Temple.

Sir J. C. French was in command, and eleven subordinates were represented. Before proceeding to business they proceeded to the Baptist Church and listened to a short discourse of rare eloquence upon the Ascension by Grand Prelate Lewis. Then, having made a handsome contribution to the Natchez Orphan Asylum, they returned to their own Asylum.

The address of the R. E. disclosed the record of an uneventful year, but withal a spirit of ability to adorn the position, if events had called for greater activity. It is to be regretted that he could not have found time for official visitations for it goes far to keep interest awake.

And this:

P. G. C. Frederic Speed, everywhere "first among his equals," presented a short form of Templar service to be used in connection with that of the Lodge where the latter conducted the funeral service of one who was also a Knight.

Sir Knight J. L. Power in submitting his Twenty-fifth annual report as Grand Recorder, indulges in many reminiscences that do credit to his heart as well as head. Our Bro. can feel honest pride in his record, and we are rejoiced that some of the rewards have come in the shape of honors, before he was beyond the possibility of enjoying them. As we infer from his notice of Bro. McCoy, there is now but one Grand Recorder in the country whose term of service has been longer. It is getting lonesome up in front, and there the shafts fall thickest, but there are hosts of dear ones over the other side.

Bro. Cornelius is still in earnest about the delivery of the "Holy Land" from the rule of the unspeakable and treacherous Turk, and, judging by the signs of the times, the day is not far away when the "Sick man of Europe" will pass in his checks and his estate will be divided among his heirs. In the partition let us hope that Palestine may be erected into a separate and independent State under the protection of the Christian powers.



We copy what he has to say along this line :

And about that crusade of Chistian sentiment to wrest the barbarous Turks from Palestine, we are pleased to note that Sir George recognizes the self-evident propriety of the Templars taking hold of the enterprise. Christendom has a vested interest in the Holy Land and it properly belongs to the soldiers of the cross to lead the crusade. Let the "Truce of God" rise over this land, where dwelt His Son while on His mission of redemption, and let it be a perpetual pledge of peace among all Christian nations, that henceforth they will not squander thier wealth in mutual destruction, but concentrate their energies and resources to raising the fallen, restoring fertility to waste places and planting them with happy homes.

We are not at all thirsting for Moslem gore, as our Bro. thinks, for we would have this recovery of Palestine a victory of peace.

The title of the faithful seed of Abraham to this land is the oldest and best on record, and the Turk is a miserable intruder and squatter, away from his home in the highlands of Central Asia. He is, as all his record for centuries to the most recent date shows, impervious to all christianizing influences. Christendom's right of eminent domain allows us to stand on solid ground, and it only remains to assess the value of the right of possession of the present occupants, make that a debt upon the country, establish a government under the protection of all the Christian nations and open it to settlement by those who would obligate themselves to improve it. Bro. DeLap will see that there is not much need of quartermasters in the crusade we propose, nor in fact of any general, except a general urgency of the purpose of the redemption of Palestine upon the attention of the Christian powers.

We are inclined to think that the original plan of conquest, by force of arms, is better than the peaceable process now proposed. The only way to make perfectly sure of where to find a Turk and when to trust him, is to kill and bury him in some convenient place. So you can watch him even then.

We wish our brother the largest possible measure of success in his undertaking. That Palestine is and has been so long in the hands of the infidels is a disgrace to Christendom and a blotch upon civilization.

Bro. Hedges tried to get a resolution before the Grand Encampment asking the friendly interposition of our own and other governments to secure the liberation of Palestine and the establishment of a liberal Autonomous government for her under the joint guarantee of all Christian Powers, but owing to the "press of other matters," he was unable to succeed. As this was something sensible and tangible, the fact that it did not get before that august body, is not at all remarkable.

May the Lord bless Bro. Cornelius and Montana!

Sir Edward D. Neill is Grand Commander; Sir Cornelius Hedges, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### NORTH CAROLINA—1895.

Fifteenth Annual at Durham, May 14th. Present: R. E. A. H. Cobb, Grand Commander; E. Horace H. Munson, Grand Recorder;

three Past Grand Commanders, and the Representatives of twelve Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is an excellent paper, but is devoted almost entirely to matters of local import. His dispensations were few and for legitimate purposes. He made but one decision, and that was, that a cosmopolite is in a bad fix, masonically; that as he has no residence, or fixed abode from choice, that he can't come in until he settles on some spot on the Lord's earth and calls it his *home*.

This is doubtless good law, but it is hard on the "sojourner." We are all pilgrims and sojourners here below, but the doors of the Church Militant are open to us, and we can enjoy the blessings of the Gospel until we reach that upper and better country, then why should we exclude a sojourner from the possible benefits and high privileges of membership in an Order founded upon the Christian religion, the applicant being, in all other respects, "worthy and well qualified?" Under "Christmas Observance," he has this to say:

This custom I deem should be observed annually, and that there may be no doubt of its character, as I endorse it, I would recommend the form of observance as set forth in that most excellent of Templar monitors, "The Shibboleth," by the late George C. Connor, P. G. C., of Tennessee. I would also recommend that the beverage water, and no other, be permitted within the Asylum walls on that occasion.

And we add: or on any other occasion, to be drank as a beverage.

We copy the following from the Grand Recorder's report, which will touch a responsive chord in more than one of our hearts and memories:

As I look back over the road I have traveled, I regard the years—nearly half a century—that I have spent in the service of Templarism as the most useful and the happiest of my life. Many of those who were with me at the start have crossed the silent river and await our coming on the other side. One thing impresses me as I look over the long list of Sir Knights, in which are concentrated the friendships of a life, that they were the manliest men I ever knew. They have left behind the sweet savor of blessed and happy memories, which are among the richest of life's golden treasures. I have watched many of my knightly brothers, when they were called to bear life's last and supremest trials, and never until then, when the eye grew dim and the heart beat faintly, did I fully appreciate the refulgent glory of the Templar's motto and sign.

He reports total on rolls, 362—a net gain of 24.

The Grand Treasurer's account shows a balance of \$416.89.

The proceedings are devoid of general interest.

The Correspondence report covers 78 pages of the pamphlet, considers the transactions of most of the Templar legislatures, and is the second effort of Deputy Grand Commander John C. Chase. Bro. Chase gets up a first-class report, and we presume a knowledge and appreciation of this fact, by our Tar Heel brethren, was the cause of their failure to advance him to the chief command, as Grand Commander.

A complete synopsis of our transactions at Holly Springs, consti-

tutes his review of Mississippi for '94, and the same may be said of all the others. His faculty of summarising is quite remarkable, and we would be glad to possess half his talent in that direction.

R.: E.: Walter S. Liddell is Grand Commander; R.: E.: Horace H. Munson, Grand Recorder; V.: E.: Sir John C. Chase, Reporter.

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#### NEBRASKA—1895.

Twenty-third Annual at Omaha, April 23d and 24th. Present: R.: E.: Sir Charles A. Tulleys, Grand Commander; R.: E.: Sir W. R. Bowen, Grand Recorder, and Representatives of twenty-one Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is short and strictly business, from start to finish. Among his dispensations we find several allowing some of his Subordinates to "*Pilgrimage*" back and forth, all of which is nonsense pure and simple.

He recommends that the baldric be dispensed with, "if not altogether at least outside of the Asylum."

Fifteen pages of the exceedingly small volume before us, is occupied by a statement of receipts and disbursements of the Grand Body from its organization to date, by the Grand Recorder. How much better it would have been to have had a short report on Correspondence, after the style of our good friend Cornelius, of Montana! It would have cost less and been worth twice as much.

It seems they had a Committee, and a report on Fraternal Correspondence in 1893, as we find an appropriation of \$75.00 to pay for same. It may be that they indulge in this sort of thing only occasionally—perhaps semi-centennially.

R.: E.: Sir Charles B. Finch is Grand Commander; R.: E.: Sir Wm. H. Bowen, re-elected Grand Recorder. No Fraternal Correspondence Committee appointed.

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#### NORTH DAKOTA—1895.

Sixth Annual at Fargo, June 21st. Present: R.: E.: Sir Joseph Hare, Grand Commander; Sir Thomas Baker, Jr., Grand Recorder, and officers of the seven chartered Commanderies.

The address is a business paper, giving an epitome of his administration. Over two pages are devoted to the dead of his own and sister Commanderies.

He reports the resignation of five Grand Representatives during the year, and the appointment of their successors. Ordinary people, holding official positions, sometimes die, but hardly ever *resign*. That is why we note the above remarkable fact.

His dispensations were all for sensible purposes.

The proceedings are entirely local. Order in good shape. Total membership 406.

There is no report on Correspondence and no Committee, which is foolish.

R.: E.: Sir Clarence A. Hale is Grand Commander; E.: Sir Frank J. Thompson, Grand Recorder. Portraits of the retiring Grand Commander and Grand Recorder adorn the pamphlet. They are both good looking, but a good report on Correspondence would have cost less money and been more in consonance with the eternal fitness of things!

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#### NEW JERSEY—1895.

Thirty-seventh Annual at Trenton, May 14th. Present: Sir James McCain, R.: E.: Grand Commander; Sir Charles Bechtel, Grand Recorder, seven Past Grand Commanders, twenty-three Grand Representatives, and Representatives of sixteen Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander opens a short but excellent address as follows:

SIR KNIGHTS: Another year has swiftly passed, and we are again assembled to legislate for the common good of our beloved Order. Your officers have been indefatigable in duty, and we now lay before you the result of our labors, hoping that wherever we may have fallen short in deed or judgment we shall, at least, receive the award of having done the best that we knew. Our visitations have brought us into delightful intercourse with our *fratres* scattered over the State, and while some things occurred to sadden us, yet we have felt the contagion of goodness that prevails everywhere. No one can come in contact with noble, high-principled Templars without having his own character elevated and feeling that the standard of the Order is raised. Such is the sentiment that fills the hearts of your officers to-day, and, in retiring from the high office to which by your generous preference we have been placed, we feel that we have lived in an atmosphere of sympathy and good will that must follow us all the days of our lives.

Under the head of "Grievance," we find the following remarkable case:

#### GRIEVANCE.

In August last I received a complaint from four Sir Knights of Cœur de Lion Commandery, No. 8, stationed at New Brunswick, that at regular conclaves of the Commandery held in February and March of 1894, upon application made by them dismissals were granted but the regular dimits had not been received by them, and all efforts upon their part to obtain them had been unavailing.

I communicated with the Commandery at once, asking for information as to why these dimits had been withheld from the Sir Knights to whom dismission had been granted; but, not receiving satisfactory replies to my correspondence in the matter, and some of my letters remaining unanswered, I directed E.: Sir John E. Rowe, Grand Captain-General, the visiting officer to Cœur de Lion Commandery, to attend to the matter in person, and he makes the following full and exhaustive report:

In addition to my official inspection of the different Commanderies, I have the honor to report other special duties performed. On the occasion of my official visit to Cœur de Lion Commandery, No. 8, stationed at New Brunswick, on January 9th, 1895, agreeable to your letter of December 27th, 1894, I made diligent inquiry to acquaint myself with the causes which have led to the strained condition of affairs existing between Cœur de Lion Commandery and three of their members who desired certificates of dismission.

In pursuing my investigations I learned that regular dismission had been granted to these Sir Knights as follows:

Sir O. O. Stillman, dimit was granted February 14th, 1894.

Sir C. H. Cramer, dimit was granted February 14th, 1894.

Sir M. N. Force, dimit was granted March 14th, 1894.

But the dimitts were *detained* by the Recorder, because of the fancied insecurity of the mails to deliver them safely, and they are still in his possession. My investigation revealed the fact that a most unknighly feeling of antipathy or enmity existed between the Recorder of Cœur de Lion Commandery and the above dimitting Sir Knights; and to such a degree had this feeling been carried as to cause an estrangement, the result being that the Recorder would not *mail* the certificates of dimit, and the Sir Knights, Stillman, Cramer and Force, would not make the personal demand on the Recorder which the Recorder insisted should be done by them, though it nowhere appears that he ever officially notified them that such personal demand was necessary.

In the hope, therefore, of being able to adjust in an amicable way these differences, I visited New Brunswick at an early evening hour on January 9th, in company with Eminent Sir Robert Dingwell, Grand Generalissimo, and held a joint interview with Eminent Commander Howell, of Cœur de Lion Commandery and Sir Knights Stillman and Cramer. At this interview the question was plainly asked of Eminent Sir Howell if there was any sufficient reason why these dimitts asked for and granted to Sir Knights Stillman, Cramer and Force had not been issued. His answer was that he knew of none.

Eminent Sir Howell was then asked if he knew of any reason that would prevent his obtaining these certificates of dimit from the Recorder, and he, Eminent Sir Howell, deliver them to the dimitted Sir Knights. He answered that he knew of no reason that would prevent him from getting them, and that *he would* get them and deliver them to Sir Knights Stillman, Cramer and Force.

This interview closed with apparent satisfaction to all concerned, at what appeared to be the solution of a very vexing problem. Later in the evening, however, when I made my official visit and inspection of Cœur de Lion Commandery, the difficulty assumed a new phase, and on information there given and for the first time imparted, I learned that the Commandery had relieved the Recorder of the responsibility of delay by passing the following resolution:

"That the applicants for certificates of dismissal or dimitts shall apply to the Recorder in person, at the Commandery or elsewhere, to the end that he may see the signatures written upon the usual blank form before certifying to the same." (Transcript of Minutes of Conclave held July 11th, and adopted August 8th, 1894.)

This is probably the first recorded case where such a requirement has been imposed upon dimitting Sir Knights in this or any other jurisdiction, and its adoption by a Subordinate Commandery very properly exposes it to the official inspection of the R. E. Grand Commander or other proper executive authority for approval or disapproval as the case may require. The rule heretofore observed in this as well as in other Commanderies throughout this and adjacent Grand Jurisdictions, has

been for the Recorder to properly fill out the certificate, have it signed by the Eminent Commander, duly attested and sealed by the Recorder, and then by him forwarded through the ordinary channels of the mails to the Sir Knights in whose favor they have been issued, and this course must necessarily be followed.

Should this rule adopted by Cœur de Lion Commandery prevail, it would require a Sir Knight who has removed to a distance from the Commandery to return before being granted his certificate of dimit. To comply with such a rule should not for a moment be thought of, much less be insisted upon. In view of the fact that these dimitts were granted *long before* this resolution was passed by the Commandery, and also of the fact that this resolution, intended as a law for the government of Cœur de Lion Commandery, *should not become operative until it has been submitted to the scrutiny and approval of the properly appointed authority of the Grand Commandery*, and as this has *not* been done, it seems to me that a proper course to pursue would be to order the Eminent Commander to obtain these several dimitts or certificates of the Recorder, properly authenticated and sealed, and forward them to the Grand Recorder, there to be disposed of as the proper authority directs.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Grand Captain-General, I sent an official order to the Eminent Commander of Cœur de Lion Commandery to secure the certificates of dimit of these several Sir Knights, and forward to the Grand Recorder.

The Committee reported as follows:

Your Committee have read with much regret the correspondence and remarks of R. E. Grand Commander regarding the refusal of the officers of Cœur de Lion Commandery to issue dimitts to certain Sir Knights. It was hoped that the efforts made to prevent its reference to this Grand Body would have prevailed, and made it unnecessary to lay bare to the outside world such unpleasant matters, for the honor of the Order is discredited by publicity of petty local squabbles. The principle involved in this case is so far-reaching, that your Committee are reluctantly compelled to review the matter. The exhaustive report of the Grand Captain-General makes it unnecessary to repeat details. What most surprises the Committee is, that the edict of the Grand Commander has been ignored and disobeyed. Have the officers in their insubordination forgotten their vows? It is charitable to think so. Of what value are the ennobling vows of Knighthood, the lofty Christian sentiments that fill the heart of the Templar with emotion at the altar, if they can be dispelled, forgotten and ignored in exercising the baser feelings of anger? It is lamentable; and proper humility and penitence should be manifested by the contumacious Knights, making unnecessary publishing the unfortunate situation of affairs in this Commandery.

Let us briefly refer to the facts and the law. It appears that as early as February and March, 1894, regular dismissals were granted. This is acknowledged by the Recorder in his letter to the Grand Captain-General, dated January 20th, 1895. It appears that *subsequent* to February and March, 1894, namely, July 11th, 1894, a resolution was passed by the Commandery requiring dimitted Sir Knights, before delivery of the certificates, to sign them in the presence of the Recorder. In this instance "a most unknighly feeling of antipathy or enmity existed." The unknighly purpose of this resolution is too manifest to need comment. Even if such a resolution had been lawful it could not be retroactive. Besides, it might be inconvenient to come from a great distance, like San Francisco, for such requirement. Nor is there any enactment that the signatures of dimitting Sir Knights shall be specially witnessed by

the Recorder. The certificates require signature before presentation for examination.

We, therefore, declare the resolution passed by this Commandery to be null and void. The Templar law clearly implies that a certificate or limit is not essential in leaving one Commandery to join another. It says (Title XVIII Digest Grand Encampment Templar Laws) that no formal vote of dismissal is necessary. Simply a request made in open Commandery "and this severs the membership whether a certificate issues or not." It appears, therefore, that these disfavored Sir Knights can affiliate with another Commandery without having letters of dismissal, which are intended as proof that they were permitted to resign, were in good standing, and were "courteously commended" to their *fraters* elsewhere. But what shall we think of the unknighly act in refusing to grant this "courteous commendation?"

As the official order of the R. E. Grand Commander, with the seal of the Grand Commander affixed, requiring these limits to be delivered to the Grand Recorder has been disobeyed, your Committee are compelled to recommend, in the interest of good government, that the charter of Cœur de Lion be declared arrested, and that the incoming Grand Commander be further empowered to reinstate the Commandery only upon delivery to him of the certificates in question, to purge their minutes of the resolution referred to, and upon his being satisfied that the officer, or officers, will be obedient to the law and the edicts of their superior officers, and that the dignity of this Grand Body be maintained.

We deem it proper, in view of this unhappy condition of affairs, to commend to all Sir Knights the cultivation of the spirit of conciliation, as conducive to that peace and harmony which we specially claim as a feature in our Order. For, without justice and kindness as our foundations, we shall build in vain. Do not imagine that we can leave these two potent factors out of our lives or our organization, and still have our full measure of happiness. We all know some good Masons, honorable and true, who can be just and kind in disposition, and would not willingly hurt anyone, and yet do so continually by a series of petty persecutions. Is that true Templarism? What are our obligations worth?

Members of the family circle, or of a Masonic body, cannot live together without establishing the spirit of conciliation. And how grand that spirit appears when enunciated by those who have been raised to power and promise; and how little such men must feel when not governed by this noble quality, but are persistent about trifles, producing revulsion of feeling instead of cordiality and friendship. It is charitable to suppose that such people are unconscious of having been unjust, for they may be naturally affectionate, and are deserving of sympathy. They do not seem to know that to antagonize another about trifles is irritating and useless, and in this case has stirred up others, leaving an unpleasant impression that will be hard to efface. Why not use the soothing influence of gentleness and conciliation? It is all right to be firm in principle and persistent in right doing, but it is, at least, ungracious to be obstinate in petty matters and always quibbling over every difference of opinion to the discomfort of everybody.

Your Committee fondly hopes and prays that those whom we deem censurable, and yet whose lives in other respects have shown a nobility of character that is praiseworthy, will rise above the plane of selfishness and realize that if they must sacrifice their lower feelings, it is easier to do so, than "offend the least one of these my brethren."

I. LAYTON REGISTER, P. G. C.

ISAAC C. GITHENS, P. G. C.

All of which strikes us as being exactly right. The only addition we would make would be to require an ample apology for the offense from *all* engaged in the disreputable, unseemly and unchristian performance, before restoring the charter.

The proceedings are, otherwise, devoid of interest. Order in good shape.

The Correspondence covers 48 pages, reviews the minutes of most of the Templar family of "Grands," and is the work of the veteran Reporter Grand Recorder Bechtel. In his report Mississippi gets less than a page, but we presume that is enough; hence do not complain.

R. E. Sir Edward Mills is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### NEW YORK—1895.

Eighty-second Annual at Niagara Falls, September 10th. There were present: R. E. Sir James W. Bowden, Grand Commander; Sir John F. Shafer, Grand Recorder; a full staff, ten Past Grand Commanders and Representatives of 54 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is an admirable paper, containing an epitome of a successful and creditable administration. Eloquent and appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the Knightly dead, both of his own and other jurisdictions, particular and deserved mention being made of the character, distinguished ability and eminent Masonic Templar service our late brother, Robert Macoy.

Under the head of "Dispensations," we find this:

To judge by the number of petitions which I have received for permission to ballot within the prescribed time laid down by the statutes and regulations, I am led to the belief that this has been a year of great prosperity. Possibly the stimulus of the session of the Grand Encampment may have led to more than ordinary activity among the local Commanderies of this jurisdiction and has caused capitular Masons to knock at the door of our Asylum. I have issued 301 permissions for this purpose, and, as my predecessor remarked in his address that the greatest amount of clerical work falling to the lot of the Grand Commander was the issuance of dispensations, I believe that I have earned the full measure of credit in not neglecting this important matter. I have also granted twenty-three permits for Commanderies to appear in public, and regret that I was obliged to, in two cases, deny the permission. I have also granted three dispensations for the election of officers in different Commanderies, which elections could not be held at the time designated.

No doubt the impending session of the Grand Encampment had much to do with the epidemic of requests for permission to ballot out of time. "'Twas ever thus."

Anent the "late unpleasantness" between New York and Indiana, he reports as follows:

Impressed with the belief that, through a misunderstanding, the



pleasant relationship which had existed between the jurisdiction of Indiana and that of New York State had been severed, and should be renewed, I entered into correspondence with the Grand Commander of Indiana, and I found no difficulty in adjusting the differences which had existed, and which, in my opinion, should never have been allowed to occur; and I take pleasure in announcing that all misunderstandings have been swept away as dew before a summer sun, and I welcome in our midst at this Conclave the recognized Representative of that grand State, in the person of our beloved Past Grand Commander Sir George McGown.

This is as it should be.

The decisions were numerous and sound. We clip this from his "Conclusion":

Accept, I pray you, my best wishes for your continued advancement and prosperity. May the noble Order, to which we owe allegiance, continue in the performance of the noble tenets which are taught in our Ritual. May it be our duty, as well as our privilege, to not only improve society at large, but by precept and example to show the world the benefits and influences which are so clearly enunciated in our Solemn Rites. Let us exercise charity to all, being slow to take offense, quick to forgive and ready to help, and may we, when life's journey shall have ended and we are called upon to lay aside the trappings of our Order, be entitled to receive the White Stone with the New Name upon it, and the commendation of Him who sitteth judge supreme. "Thou hast been faithful in few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

The proceedings are mostly local. Order in good shape. Total membership 10,710—a gain of 322.

The "Pay Roll" amounted to \$2,463.93! They pay delegates and officers a per diem of \$10.00 a day. How is that for high? and how does it strike you alongside of your penuriousness in making your Grand Officers pay their own expenses?

They also allow their Correspondent mileage and per diem same as the balance, and \$500.00 (!!!) for a report that will compare very favorably with ours, but is no better, although a few pages longer!

Our good Bro. Anthony is the architect of the report on Correspondence, and it is worth the price paid. He reviews the minutes of thirty-seven Grands, Mississippi, for 1894, included, and opens as follows:

To the Grand Commandery of the State of New York:

We herewith submit the report on Correspondence for the year 1895, in the hope that the matter embraced herein may be not only of interest, but profitable to contemplate.

The tidings proclaim peace and good will from all sections and a generous rivalry not only for superiority in the *esprit de corps* of our Chivalric Order, but also in the furtherance of deeds of beneficence and charity.

The final preparations for the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment have been made, and as we close our report the Templar hosts are gathered in the city of Boston to participate in the pleasures so bountifully provided by your fraters of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. The hospitality of our Eastern fraters will be tested to the utmost, but their royal generosity will be such that every visitor

will carry away naught but pleasant recollections of the Twenty-sixth Triennial Grand Conclave.

Questions fraught with great importance to the welfare and peace of our Order will come before the Grand Encampment, and we hope that the wisdom of that Grand Body will be such that those of paramount importance will be placed upon such a basis that the laws of the different Grand Bodies in Masonry may work in harmony, and for the greatest good of all.

We look forward to the result of the deliberations of this Triennial Grand Conclave with some misgivings as the importance of some questions demand earnest and thoughtful consideration, to the end that the establishment of a correct principle may prevail in reference to the effect of unaffiliation in the Lodge upon membership in the Commandery, and especially wherein by Grand Lodge enactment Masonic rights are declared severed without trial.

We are not advised as to the action of the Central Concern along the lines anent which Bro. Jesse B. is so anxious, but have no doubt it did just as it does always, i. e., made a muddle, or nothing. Blessed are they that expect nothing good to come out of the Grand Encampment, for they *shall not* be disappointed!

Under Arkansas and along this non-affiliation line, we find this:

We agree that "as Knights Templar we are subordinate to the Grand Encampment, and as such bound to obey its Decrees and Edicts." The difficulty is to reconcile the provisions of the present Grand Encampment Code with the enactments of some Grand Lodges in the penalties inflicted for non-payment of dues.

The right of a Grand Lodge to regulate its own membership cannot be questioned, and if the penalty inflicted for non-payment of dues is of such a stringent character as to take away all Masonic rights, then Templar standing must be affected, otherwise not.

We hope the Committee on the Revision of the Grand Encampment Code will appreciate the importance of this question and make the provisions of the law plain, consistent and in harmony with general Masonic usage.

It appears to us that ultimately Templar standing must depend upon a continuance of membership in Lodge and Chapter.

That is about the size of it. We dissent, however, that we are bound as Knights Templar to obey the decrees or edicts of the Grand Encampment or any other body, when they conflict with the obedience we owe to those of the Grand Lodge. Our Masonic mother is entitled to a greater measure of respect and consideration than any of her progeny have a right to expect or demand.

Our brother's review of Mississippi is fraternal. He quotes the form adopted for "Knights Templar Service at the Grave," without comment. He says: The "venerable long use" of the Christmas libation, may have been intended for a joke. We beg to assure our friend that this writer has, for many years, annually received an invitation from Sir Stephen of Maine to join him in this libation, and Sir French, knowing this, used the expression—"made venerable from long use," not venerable long use," a phrase assinine for its stupidity.

He has some pleasant words to say of our report and adds: "Sorry

to see in several instances that he is not feeling at all well this A. M.; and this occasions the inquiry: "Is it not rather chronic?" To which we reply that if a daily experience of the sort, for a period of fifteen years, is long enough to make it chronic, why then, it is chronic.

There are lots and lots of good things in this report, but we will extract his table of statistics and say good-bye to Bro. A.

### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR STATISTICS.

GRAND COMMANDERY.	Subordinates.	Members.	Created.	Affiliated.	Reinstated.	Died.	Dimitted.	Dropped, and Non-payment of dues.	Expelled.	Net Gain.	Net Loss.
Alabama.....	10*	368*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arkansas.....	12	545	38	7	1	12	12	16	2	4	...
Arizona.....	3	103	8	3	...	3	...	1	...	7	...
California.....	35	2,977	145	55	11	42	53	47	...	60	...
Colorado.....	24	1,648	69	23	6	16	35	28	...	22	...
Connecticut.....	11	2,214	158	8	1	41	10	4	...	112	...
Georgia.....	10	679	73	2	...	12	25	4	2	32	...
Illinois.....	64	9,109	492	62	21	114	215	161	3	82	...
Indiana.....	37	3,394	194	53	12	40	74	48	3	85	...
Iowa.....	54	4,116	55	16	3	34	60	65	1	86	...
Kansas.....	42	3,176	210	29	9	40	91	71	1	75	...
Kentucky.....	25	1,913	108	25	4	40	23	30	...	53	...
Louisiana.....	4	311	30	1	...	7	3	3	...	18	...
Maine.....	19*	2,756*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maryland.....	9	997	64	8	2	12	14	...	8	41	...
Mass. and Rhode Island.	45	10,354	693	105	...	134	146	22	4	473	...
Michigan.....	44	5,373	416	117	6	80	118	58	5	278	...
Minnesota.....	25	2,335	145	68	3	24	72	64	1	55	...
Mississippi.....	12	430	60	3	2	9	...	...	...	56	...
Missouri.....	53	4,030	195	54	9	42	136	126	...	46	...
Montana.....	8	337	17	3	2	2	9	8	...	3	...
Nebbraska.....	21	1,056	81	18	6	10	44	57	1	...	...
New Hampshire.....	10	1,853	69	5	...	28	13	...	...	32	...
New Jersey.....	16	1,681	90	16	...	22	31	27	...	26	...
New York.....	59	10,420	670	58	60	161	181	152	18	276	...
North Carolina.....	12	362	39	4	...	9	11	10	1	12	...
North Dakota.....	7	365	31	1	1	3	16	...	...	22	...
Ohio.....	54	7,656	368	106	53	97	141	92	7	190	...
Oregon.....	6	383	15	5	...	3	2	...	...	15	...
Pennsylvania.....	73	10,594	621	73	...	157	105	127	1	304	...
South Dakota.....	11	793	51	5	1	6	...	12	...	18	...
Tennessee.....	15	1,065	53	16	2	26	30	44	...	29	...
Texas.....	31	2,080	210	33	4	26	71	43	4	103	...
Vermont.....	10	1,396	116	4	2	20	16	12	...	73	...
Virginia.....	20	1,365	139	19	3	17	37	27	1	114	...
Washington.....	9	534	61	32	...	13	8	6	...	69	...
West Virginia.....	11	791	88	37	4	11	47	15	1	55	...
Wisconsin.....	25*	2,958*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wyoming.....	5	250	28	11	1	3	8	...	...	29	...
Grand Encampment.....	36	3,129	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	223	...
Total in the U. S.....	984	106,026	5,930	1,085	229	1,334	1,858	1,380	64	3,026	161
Canada.....	32	1,273	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
England and Wales.....	106	3,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ireland.....	41	1,300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scotland.....	10	450	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Victoria, Australia.....	4	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total in the world.....	1,177	112,129	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

\*Last year's report.

Sir Horace A. Noble is Grand Commander; Sir John F. Shafer, Grand Recorder; Correspondent as before.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE—1895.

Annual Conclave was held in the city of Concord, September 24th. Sir Knight Daniel C. Roberts, Grand Commander, presiding; Sir Knight George P. Cleaves, Grand Recorder; 16 Past Grand Commanders, 27 Grand Representatives—our's among them—and the Representatives of 10 Subordinate Commanderies were in attendance.

The address, while an elegant paper and quite lengthy, contains nothing of general interest. He is much enthused over the "Triennial" and devotes much space to it.

He, evidently, has a high regard for the scriptural injunction: "Despise not the day of small things," as the following "much ado about nothing" abundantly proves:

In this connection I venture a further suggestion on a kindred subject. I believe that the proper way to designate a Knight Templar is by the term "Sir Knight" and not by the title "Sir," as "Sir Knight Richard Roe," and not "Sir Richard Roe." "Sir," standing before a man's name has a legitimate traditional and technical meaning. The use of it as applied to members of our Order would be misleading if it were not for the fact that everybody accepts it as unreal. This unreality leads people to speak and think slightly, not only of that title, but of the organization which misapplies it. "Sir Knight" has a meaning clearly understood, and carries with it the dignity of the great modern Order of Knights Templar; a sufficient dignity. "Sir" carries with it a different and well understood dignity, and that significance cannot be transplanted. It is a distinct loss of prestige to apply it to ourselves in our way, and it seems a mockery, an imitation. It looks as though we were trying to pass for something which we are not, and that is not a dignified proceeding. I advocate the use of the style "Sir Knight" before a man's name for Knights Templar, and not the style "Sir," and this is in accordance with Title LVII, Section 2 of the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

In our opinion the matter is entirely too trivial to engage the attention of as an intelligent a man as the R. E. is. His dispensations were all for proper purposes. He closes with the following jingle of modern machine poetry:

"Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the Cross of Jesus,  
Going on before."

We are glad it was not "original matter," and hope its author felt well enough after fulminating it to do something practicably sensible.

The minutes are of local interest only. Order in a healthy condition—financially and otherwise. Total membership 1,993—a gain of 140.

Bro. A. S. Wait presented his sixth report on Correspondence, in which he reviews the proceedings of thirty-nine Templar governing bodies, including Mississippi for '95, in his usual courteous and thorough style.

Under California, we find these in reference to the Mystic Shrine,

which we commend to the careful consideration of Sirs Buchanan, Walker, et al :

We know nothing of this Order of the Mystic Shrine, of its principles or organization; but if it is true, as stated by Grand Commander Sumner, of California, that its book of authority is the Koran, we cannot refrain from asking the question, how can a Knight Templar consistently allow himself to be identified with it, or how can the law of our Order consistently permit its members to become members of such a body? We do not question that a Mohammedan can properly be admitted to the degrees of symbolic Masonry; but how an Order founded upon the Christian religion and the practice of Christian virtues, can permit its members to become identified with an organization whose fundamental law is the Koran, is what we are not able to understand.

Bro. Wait's review of Mississippi is pleasant and very fraternal. He gives a synopsis of Grand Commander French's address, quotes the law report anent the dispensation to ballot granted Brookhaven Commandery, while yet in embryo, and remarks :

We should understand the dispensation thus granted to confer the orders to be, in effect as in intention, to the new Commandery after it should become duly organized and in condition for work; and the question is whether a Grand Commander has not the power to grant such a dispensation in anticipation of such organization? The committee seem to hold that a dispensation to confer the orders can only be issued after a special vote of the Commandery requesting it; and they say that this is the presumption of the statute authorizing such dispensations. No dispensations to confer the orders differ in this respect from other dispensations, for a Commandery to appear in public, for instance? There have been many dispensations issued to all Commanderies of a given jurisdiction to appear in public in uniform for the celebration of Easter and Ascension days, and without any request from any source; and we have never heard of their rectitude being questioned. They are as much departures from the ordinary usages of the Order as the conferring the orders out of time; and we find it difficult to make a distinction between them. After saying this much, it will hardly be necessary that we should add that we doubt the correctness of the view held by the Committee.

In all of which we concur. We are glad to know that, on most matters discussed in these reports, there is no antagonism between Bro. W. and ourselves, and that where there is a diversity of sentiment there is no element of unpleasantness.

Bro. Wait closes his excellent paper with a review of the Triennial at Boston. As it amounted to nothing, in the direction of benefit to the Order, as usual, we are somewhat surprised that our good brother would waste his time and talents upon it.

Grand Commander and Grand Recorder re-elected, and Bro. Wait continued as Correspondent.

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#### OREGON—1895.

Ninth Annual in the city of Albany, October 10th. Present: R.: E.: Sir Philip S. Malcolm, Grand Commander; R.: E.: Sir Jas. F. Rob-

inson, Grand Recorder, nearly all the Staff Officers, 4 Past Grand Commanders, a goodly array of Grand Representatives, including he of Mississippi, and Representatives of 6 Subordinate Commanderies.

An eloquent address of welcome was made by Past Grand Commander Mason, which was responded to in appropriate terms by the Grand Commander.

We clip the following from the opening of the regular address of the R. E. as being mighty good reading:

**SIR KNIGHTS:** Tradition says that as the soul of our martyred Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, was about to wing its flight, he summoned the cowardly and treacherous king, Philip the Fair, and the cruel, rapacious and infamous pope, Clement V., to meet him before the judgment seat. The thought occurs to me that when they three stand before the Great Judge of all, behind the array of armed warriors who will be there to testify to the truth and purity of our murdered Grand Master, will be the host of American freemen, who since his day have enlisted under the banner of the cross—not to fight as he did on the tented field, but in the walks of everyday life; not for the redemption of the Holy Sepulchre, but for free thought, free speech and free conscience, and the right of man to worship as his conscience dictates. Do not think, Sir Knights, because we enjoy this inestimable privilege now, that we are secure in its enjoyment in perpetuity. The same dark power that crushed the military strength of our Order, would, if it could, crush those who in this age fight only for the good of mankind. There can be no despotism without ignorance and superstition. Teach man to be conscious of his rights, and he will value them and respect those of his fellow men. Make him to see that the law of love, as promulgated by Him under whose banner we are enlisted, is the supreme law, governing all others. Templarism in this day should be a vital force in every community, expressed in the good actions of its members, in deeds of charity and pure beneficence. So shall it justify to the world its existence, and not be regarded as a society whose members have no higher aim than to parade in public wearing swords and feathers. I would have the fraters of this jurisdiction admired for their manliness, respected for their integrity and loved for the good they do their fellow men. So shall they be true followers of the cross.

The address is an exceptionally short one. His duties were extremely light and of no general interest. The proceedings are devoid of startling or unusual features. The Order is in a healthy state. Total membership 404—a gain of 21.

Past Grand Commander J. M. Hodson is again the author of the Correspondence report which, like its predecessors, from the same distinguished source, is "all wool and a yard wide." He opens as follows:

**DEAR FRATERS:** We have examined the proceedings and correspondence of the various Grand Commanderies so far as they have reached our table during the Templar year, and courteously subinit for your consideration such extracts and comments as have seemed to us of general interest and of a character such as to assist in promulgating and impressing the valuable tenets of our magnanimous Order. We have tried to give you all the news from the Templar world in as brief a form as possible, and trust you will honor us with a careful perusal, for the objects of such a report will be but poorly accomplished unless the fraters for whom it is prepared thoroughly examine and consider the same.

While we appreciate more fully than you how far we fall below our ideal of what a perfect report should be, yet we feel confident that among the many points of instruction and exhortation gleaned we can all find many useful lessons, and that even the careless and thoughtless may be benefited by their perusal. A few of the jurisdictions have not as yet answered roll-call, among which is the one usually first on the list, hence we begin with the youngest of the family, which, as usual, is the pet, though frequently somewhat spoiled, though luckily not in this case.

His modesty bespeaks his exalted merit and if our fraters of Oregon fail to read his paper, they will be foolish.

Under California, he discourses as follows, anent the matter of taking "Old Glory" around on our parades:

No objection from this quarter, only we would prefer not making any legal requirement of the kind. Let the emblem of liberty float freely over every foot of our territory and over every American citizen no matter where his business or pleasure calls him; but the banners of the Order are entirely separate from the thought of civil or political power, are emblems of different principles; and while in no way opposed, yet the thoughts brought to the contemplative mind by their display are altogether different from the stirring patriotism and political enthusiasm aroused by the graceful flutter of the stars and stripes. Let us not make haste to "improve" on the methods by which we have certainly prospered beyond the experience of any other Order; nobody doubts the thorough loyalty of every true Templar.

In all of which we concur.

Under Indiana and referring to the "Dependent Membership" question, he discharges a fusillade of sound sense, as follows:

We do not challenge the first statement, but we do most earnestly contend that it not only is the right but the duty of all Grand Lodges to follow every Mason beyond its lines and make him discharge all his duty to the craft, or get entirely out and sever his connection completely. Sir Ruckle and every opponent of the dependent membership laws knows that the select and high standing of American Templary is and has always been dependent upon its selection and elevation by and through the ancient craft. Dissolve that connection, and the Templars would sink at once to a level with any of the numerous societies with uniforms and fancy feathers. No, Sir; show yourselves men worthy of the honors of the Temple by discharging your whole duty to the craft, which includes payment of dues, but is by no means all, or get entirely out, away from, and don't claim the benefits of, the Order. Go join the Knights of Pythias, a very worthy order—you can display your fine clothes just as well—but don't claim the high, select and honorable standing of a Masonic Templar unless you are willing to discharge in an honorable way the obligations you voluntarily assumed as such.

The "first statement" referred to is Bro. Ruckles' that Masonic membership is voluntary.

Bro. Hodson's notice of Mississippi for 1895, is full, pleasant and fraternal. He says:

After the noon recess the Grand Commander, Sir J. C. French delivered his address, carefully detailing the doings of the executive department during his administration. He pays knightly tribute to the eminent worth and knightly deeds of the fraternal dead of his own and

other jurisdictions. He had granted numerous dispensations for the reception of petitions and balloting within less than regulation time, and had granted a dispensation for the organization of one new Commandery which was chartered later in the session.

Replying to some squirt of ours in former report, he says:

No, thank you, we are not "Seventh Day Baptist," although some of their principles we personally endorse; but in our Templar and Masonic writings we hope to avoid discussion of "isms" and creeds about and over which even good men disagree, and some, who they think they are far better than we claim to be, quarrel. There are fundamental principles, upon which there is no discussion, broad enough for all to stand upon; further than this we grant others the right we claim for ourselves of private belief or disbelief as our conscience dictates; and one who is not willing to grant this liberty lacks a vast amount of coming up to the Templar standard and had better go join the Spanish Inquisition and go into the business of building racks and instruments of torture. We are thankful that there are very few of these in the Templar ranks.

Our brother must not take all we say, along such lines as these, in sober earnest. "A little nonsense now and then, is relished by the best of men."

He closes his review of us as follows:

We are partial to Mississippi Templar usage and admire the valiant and magnanimous spirit always manifested by her fraters, but we do not approve that section of her law that grants to each Commandery concurrent jurisdiction over all material in the State. A Royal Arch Mason would be most likely to apply for admission to the nearest Commandery, which would be where he was best known; but in case he had doubts as to his worthiness he would be sure to seek an opening where he could get through easily; besides, it is contrary to long established Masonic usage in nearly, if not quite, all Grand Jurisdictions, and we are so conservative that we hate innovations unless sure of a very decided improvement over old methods.

They take things very deliberately in this land of sugar cane and cotton, for, though the proceedings were rather brief, yet they used up three days in the Conclave. They must have had a whole lot of fun between times, as a common Grand Commandery would get away with the whole business in one day and evening, and not be rushed either.

We are grateful for his kindly partiality, and have no doubt there is a large element of logic and sound sense in reference to jurisdictional lines, but the plan seems to work well, so far.

We are little, but loud, hence it takes us three days to do half a day's work in. It looks big to have a three day's session, and that is our only chance to use a big auger.

May God bless our brother and the brethren of Oregon.

R. E. Sir B. E. Lippincott is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

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OHIO—1895.

A ponderous tome of near 490 pages contains the transactions of this Grand Body at its Fifty-third Annual Conclave which was held in the city of Columbus, October 2d. R. E. Sir John A. Warner,



Grand Commander. There were present: the entire staff of Grand Officers, 11 Past Grand Commanders, 25 Grand Representatives, not including ours, a long list of Past Eminent Commanders and Representatives of 40 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of Grand Commander Warner covers more than fifty pages, and is an elegant paper. He opens thus:

The first lesson we are taught in Masonry was, before entering upon any important undertaking to invoke the blessing of God. How much more is incumbent upon us to recollect while we look to Him "who doeth all things well," that His care has been exercised over us during the past year—that the blessings we so earnestly sought have been vouchsafed to us. With grateful hearts do we render our thanksgiving for the life and health that has made it possible for us to assemble once more, to participate in the deliberations of the Fifty-third Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery—to review the past, to consider the present, to plan for the future the promotion of the interests of our Order. While we exchange our courteous knightly salutations, in the strong grasp of the hand, the light of the eye, and the breathing of the lips in their fraternal greetings, we are assured that Love is the one grand characteristic of our Order; love for each other; love for all that is pure and good; love for the blessed Immanuel—this is the bond that unites us in a Christian cause, that prompts us to promote each other's welfare.

Eloquent and deserved tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the Knightly dead, both of his own and other jurisdictions. He made a large number of "Decisions" on questions the solution of which, as he remarks, were fully covered by the Statutes and Regulations.

We quote the 4th query, as showing how stupid intelligent men can sometimes be:

*Question.* At a stated conclave of Commandery, December 3d, a Knight in good standing, resident of another city, made application for dimit, stating that he desired to join a Commandery in another State. The Eminent Commander refused dimit on the ground of his leaving the jurisdiction; at the next conclave, January 7th, the Sir Knight again made application, without assigning any reason; the Eminent Commander being absent, the same Past Commander presiding, again refused dimit, and the matter was referred to me.

The answer to the above is so easy that we do not quote it. The idea that a worthy Sir Knight does not have the inalienable right to dimit at pleasure, is too absurd to talk about.

To the query, Can a Commandery accord burial to an unaffiliated Knight? the reply was, that it was in the discretion of the Commandery.

He also decided that objection by a visiting Knight to a candidate may be received, but shall not be considered, except by a majority vote of the Commandery.

He reports a total membership 7,912—a net gain of 348!—nearly as many as we have on our roll.

His visitations were quite extensive, and no doubt were pleasant and profitable to all concerned.

His dispensations were numerous, but all for practical and legitimate purposes.

He announced the near completion and dedication of the Ohio Masonic Home. This sort of monument to the principles and teachings of Masonry, of all grades, commends itself to the respect and admiration of thinking men everywhere. Perhaps our Masonry may, someday, be able, like Ohio, to show its faith by its works.

Ten years ago they had a surplus of \$14,000 in their treasury, so they reduced the dues from 75 cents to 50 cents, and the fees for orders from \$3.00 to \$2.00, with the natural result of being to-day without sufficient funds to pay running expenses. He recommended a return to the old figures, which was sensible, and the Grand Body so decided. The address, as a whole, is an able and exhaustive *resume* of a most successful administration, and reflects honor upon its author and the Grand Jurisdiction over which he presided.

The proceedings are mostly local. The Order is in an exceptionally prosperous condition, and peace reigns.

This brings us to the consideration of the savory and spicy viands upon the table presided over by that giant of literary caterers, our good brother Enoch T. Carson. This is his twentieth annual spread, and like its predecessors, leaves nothing to ask for. Our venerable brother notices, in his own inimitable style, the transactions of 40 Templar legislatures, Mississippi for 1865, getting 11 pages.

We copy his opening chorus as showing that the duties of a Correspondent are very light, and his office somewhat of a sinecure:

As chairman of the Committee on Foreign Communications, I have the honor of submitting the following report for the year 1895, being my *twentieth* report for this committee.

The following alphabetical list comprises all the printed proceedings of Templar Grand Bodies noticed in this report, and includes all that have been received, either by the Grand Recorder or by myself, since the closing of our last report 1894. We give the number of pages contained in each of the publications noticed, omitting those leaves and pages termed memorial tablet pages, set apart to commemorate the dead. The grand aggregate is 6,076 pages. I believe there is but Grand Commandery omitted, that is Wisconsin for 1895; it has not been received up to November 18, 1895.

The total number of Grand Bodies noticed is forty. The task of looking through and reading most of these proceedings is becoming greater and greater each year. Six thousand and seventy-six pages, or more than five hundred pages every month; only think of it, the literature of one year.

In addition to the review, I will probably add a chapter of general interest, not confined to any particular Grand Body.

Bro. Enoch digests the doings of 40 Templar Grand Bodies in his own peculiarly forceful and interesting style in a paper of 160 pages—a volume of Templar literature that it would pay any intelligent Mason to carefully read. Under California we find this:

We are not going to have a theological controversy with you, brother

Davis. We will say, however, that we are obligated to something more than the Ritual specifically contains, for we profess that we are "firm believers in the Christian religion," that is stronger than anything directly expressed in words in the Ritual. The ceremonial, however, is purely Christian, or it is nothing. There is no place for Bob Ingersolism in our Order.

You are right, brother. There *is* no place in our Order for any of the different grades of the creature named by the Psalmist. "The fool hath said in his heart—There is no God."

This under Colorado :

A motion was made that Commanderies be allowed to employ any competent person who is not a Templar as drill master. The motion was lost. We venture to say no good reason was or could be given for opposition to the proposition.

Right again.

Under Connecticut we find the following :

In "conclusion," (both Carson's and our own,) we find him apologizing. Who ever knew of an apology from him in "correspondence" before?

Well, Sir Eli, if you will make a retrospective review of our nineteen years' correspondence, you will find that we always apologize for others; we apologize for their taking offense at something we have said. For instance, when we fought a theory and given it (not the writer) a kick, perhaps, some of our co-correspondents have thought that they were kicked, and we always apologized for their obliquity of vision and understanding.

Apologizing for the other fellow is much the nicest way of doing things, and is frequently the most appropriate.

Under Indiana, these :

The following curious question was asked : Can one who has not received the order of Knight Templar be employed in the ceremonies of conferring the same? The Grand Commander's answer was "No." Every O. B. from E. A. to the end of the list prohibits the communication of the secrets thereof to anyone not entitled to receive them.

We don't understand as to what extent one who has not received the orders had been employed in the ceremonies. Now, one of the grand features in the Order of the Red Cross is the banquet. It is supposed to be a part of the degree. If this complaint was against the caterer who had arranged and prepared the menu and "set" before the Knights is the one referred to, we think the complaint was not well founded, and while this banquet may be regarded as one of the secrets of the Order of the Red Cross, we do not think it is such a part of the secrets as is referred to in the O. B. of E. A.

We are inclined to the belief that at a certain stage of the banquet it would be manifestly improper for an outsider to be present.

Our brother's review of Mississippi for '95, is full, pleasant and fraternal. He gives a complete synopsis of Grand Commander French's address, the minutes and our report. We copy as follows :

It appears that a dispensation for a Commandery had been granted to nine Templars at . . . Before the Commandery was instituted the

nine petitioners petitioned the Grand Commander for a dispensation authorizing them to receive and act upon the petitions of five petitioners (Companions) upon the day of the organization. The Grand Commander granted the dispensation, authorizing them to receive and ballot on the petitions of the five Companions and confer the orders on the evening of the day of organization. The Grand Commandery disapproved of this, saying that the fact that a Commandery under dispensation was about to organized did not warrant the issuance of a dispensation, because such a dispensation can be granted only when a Commander votes to ask for it. We think that while the decision of the Grand Commandery is in close conformity with the statute, yet it was technical, and the error, if it was one, should not have been dealt with so severely.

The proceedings are adorned with two fine half-tone portraits.

The names of the officers and members of the Commanderies are printed in the proceedings.

We think Bro. Carson's idea is correct, and that there was nothing in the episode that justified "setting down" on the Grand Commander. But we are a peculiar set down here. None of us hesitate to express our personal opinions and none of us take exceptions to those opinions; hence we never have any unpleasant friction along these lines. His attention to our report is very full and extremely pleasant. We clip the following:

Then he has something more complimentary to ourselves, which we won't quote, upon our sketch of the history of the National Ritual from its birth to the present time. He says he does not doubt that it is true and able, but it is too long for him to copy it entire, and it can't be mutilated.

He adds:

The same remarks apply, and with equal force, to a second paper on the history of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

He says:

One thing we are sure, and that is that Bro. Enoch will hold up his end of the log in anything he undertakes.

He says he don't know who is right in the controversy, and don't much care.

In reply to this we want to say to our good brother we wish he would look into the matter, as we regard him as a good juryman, fully capable of giving a just and righteous verdict.

Under Ohio for 1894, referring to our report, he says we submitted a short but very emphatic paper under the heading of "National Ritual," in which Bro. Enoch proceeds to demolish the works and utterances of Rev. Sir Finch, of Massachusetts, who seems to have been indulging in the luxury of discussing matters about which he knew nothing.

Then he says something very pleasant about ourselves, and concludes the matter by copying our entire paper on the National Ritual, which we regard as a high compliment.

Says the article on the organization of the Grand Encampment, though short, is forcible, to the point, and convincing.

His conclusion to ourselves is very pleasant, and is fully reciprocated by us; says he found nothing upon which to draw his "blade," save possibly the lack of charity and Christian forbearance that sometimes crops out.

Dear Bro. Enoch, that is a charge to which we are both obnoxious; and is it not a misnomer to say it is a charity to hold back and not ex-

press your real thoughts? I think that that has been the trouble with both of us, we speak out in church; but we sincerely join or reiterate what you say under Oregon: "There is no malice in any of our deliverances."

We will try and look into the case enough to enable us to render an intelligent verdict, if health permits. In the light of our brother's long life, his exceptional ability, learning and sound judgment of men and things, we are inclined to the belief that he is nearer right in the matter of history than are his adversaries. He closes his review of our report as follows:

Well, Sir Enoch, we have a conclusion to add to your conclusion, and that is that this report has given us more amusement and satisfaction than any report that has emanated from your pen in the last twenty years. We have made very extended quotations from it, as we thought it a pity that the many good things we found in it should be buried in the report of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi. Long may you live to furnish us with amusement, and the same time matters that are so seriously important to our Order.

We are glad to have been able to amuse our brother, not only out of regard for him, but because of the fact that our effort had sufficient merit to secure its reading by as intelligent a Templar as he is, proves that it must possess some merit.

Under New Hampshire, and reviewing Bro. Wait's report, he has this to say touching the status of non-affiliated Masons in the Commandery. It is gratifying to have the endorsement of so wise and distinguished a Templar of our action and that of California on this subject:

He differs from Bro. Davis, of California, that a Mason can be deprived of his Masonic standing by simply being non-affiliated for six months. We think that our California brother has the best of the argument; that is, the Grand Lodges have full power to determine for themselves the legitimacy, etc., of Masonic Bodies, also to determine what is necessary to constitute good Masonic standing. In some jurisdictions a man may be unaffiliated, and still enjoy the privileges of visiting the Lodges; in others they are limited, and may visit once (as it is in Ohio,) or twice; then they are deprived of the privilege of visiting until affiliated.

These matters are very properly left to the Grand Lodges, and the Commanderies in the States are bound to conform to the law of the Grand Lodge. What the Grand Lodge binds is bound in the Commandery, and what it releases is released by discipline or otherwise under its particular law must be released in the Commanderies.

Bro. Enoch has published a pamphlet on Androgynal or "Petticoat Masonry," taking the following remarks of Sir Hodson of Oregon, as a text:

Noticing what we said about "Petticoat Freemasonry," he has the following:

As to his opposition to "Petticoat Masonry," that is to be expected from an old fogey existing only by the lights of the past, and they are almost put out by the rush of modern thought and invention. The Eastern Star is not Masonry, yet it draws its inspiration therefrom, and is in all re-

spects as orderly, as respectable, and as a rule better behaved than our own beloved Order of the Temple, and we hope such crude criticism will not be indulged in again, even by Bro. Carson. He ought to be ashamed to so refer to an organization participated in by many of the wives and daughters of the best Masons in our country.

Bro. Enoch handles his "Vialy Critic," as he terms Sir H., without gloves, as he has the right and as it is eminently proper for him to do. The tendency of the newly-fledged male bypeds of our day is to decry everything as old-fogyish that does not accord with their ideas of progress as seen in their present age, and to belittle and vilify men, old enough to be their grandfathers, and who have forgotten more in an hour than these sluggish critics will ever know, simply because they dare dissent from the advanced (?) views held by them. Happily our venerable friend is not too old or feeble to hoe his own row with any and all of them, and come out ahead.

Bro. Enoch's book gives a short history of some of the alleged Masonic side-degrees, and we are not at all surprised at his unqualified condemnation of them. They are all, or nearly all, of French descent and some of them are decidedly "Frenchy" in their ritual.

Bro. Enoch was at Boston, and tells what occurred there, closing with the following interesting remarks:

We hope and pray for a very great improvement at Pittsburg in 1898. We trust that the Representatives will come prepared to stay over Saturday and all of the following week, if it is necessary, to transact and dispose of the business that may come before it and ought to be disposed of at that Conclave. That is what they will be sent there to do, and our admonition to them is do your duty. We didn't do it at our last Conclave.

Finally, we leave this subject to our Bro. DeLap, of Mississippi. He can do it more justice than we can. We say to him, now go in; we, the Grand Encampment, deserve any ugly reprimand or criticism you may be inclined to make.

We confess our inability to do the subject justice. We will just say, however, that Bro. Enoch is wasting his time in praying and hoping for what, in the very nature of things, is unattainable. The Grand Encampment never did any real good and it never will. We have a copy of the proceedings at Boston, and can truthfully report that much money was wasted; much wine and whisky was consumed, much style was shown, much enjoyment had by some, and in matters pertaining to the interest of Templary, NOTHING was accomplished.

We copy Bro. Carson's closing, and will say:

"God be with you, 'till we meet again."

Which may not be until we sit together under the shade of the Tree of Life, upon the banks of the "River of God":

#### CONCLUSION.

We have ended our Twentieth Report. Such as it is goes forth. We can say that we have stated no historical fact in it, nor in any of our former reports, that we can not substantiate. As to our own personal

views on various matters discussed, they were our own; good or otherwise, they are what I conscientiously believed.

We have ever held the Order above the individual, whoever he may have been. It has been our leading idea that either Symbolic or high grade Freemasonry should be so regarded and treated by its true friends. The Jesuit missionaries' maxim was, "All for mother Church, nothing for the individual."

We paraphrased and adopted as our motto early in our Masonic life, "All for the Order, nothing for the individual," and we have tried to adhere to it, and we hope that those who may have occasion to speak of us "when our duty of labor and of love is over," will be able to say, "He did what he could" to advance and add to the glory, honor and influence of pure Freemasonry, of high or low degree.

We believe in and love pure, moral and religious high grade Masonry just as the graduate of Yale, Harvard or Princeton believes in and loves those grand old institutions of learning. Because he loves and patronizes them, does it follow that he is opposed to or unfriendly to the common schools or the educational academies which prepared him for admission to those grand scholastic establishments? Such a proposition is absurd.

What is high grade Masonry but a continuance and elaboration of those lessons, doctrines and symbols which were taught us in the Symbolic Lodge? and yet there are some who denounce the high Masonic grades, saying that they detract interest from Symbolic Freemasonry.

The argument has no logical foundation. In fact, so long as the latter is a prerequisite to the high grades, high grade Masons should have, and as a rule we think we may say they do have, the greatest respect and love for Symbolic Masonry, as the graduates of our great colleges have for the humble common schools in which they received their first instructions, their A-b Abs, and O-b Obs; for in those humble primeval schools the foundation was laid for that final triumphal achievement—the reception of the coveted parchment having upon it the seal of old Harvard, Yale, or Princeton.

So with true high grade Masons. If they are true to themselves, if they are not Masons for revenue or for office, they are the true defenders of Freemasonry, and they could not hold their parchments as Knights Templar or Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33d degree were it not that they have graduated in the primary school—Symbolic Freemasonry.

In high grade Masonry in the United States, the Order of Masonic Knights Templar is one of the first. The only high grade Masonry recognized as regular by the Grand Lodge of Ohio is the Royal Arch, governed by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States; the Knights Templar, governed by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templars of the United States; the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, 33d degree, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States, and the Southern Supreme Council of the 33d degree for the United States. All others, by whatever name they may be known, are Masonically illegal and *clandestine*, and their members are Masonic pariahs.

We have submitted a paper on Androgynal Freemasonry because we thought it necessary in order to vindicate and maintain the dignity and purity of our venerable Order. We are opposed to any kind of a secret society organization which admits *both males and females*, and for the reasons given in our article. We are now and ever have been opposed to traffic in Masonry, carried on by Masonic tramps—whether male or female.

One of our critics says that we should not have written as we have

in opposition to female Freemasonry, inasmuch as many of the wives, etc., of our brethren have united themselves in such organizations.

To this we have to reply that, as *our ideal woman has always been enthroned above man*, she has always occupied a very much higher moral and social sphere than the Knights Templar or Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33d degree have ever attained or can attain. As mother, wife, sister or daughter, with us she has ever had a throne of her own, to which we, as a dutiful, loyal subject, have ever held loving, admiring allegiance. However, when woman abdicates her throne and comes down on the level with us men, she must expect and should receive the same treatment that men extend to each other; she must expect to get kicks and criticisms, sometimes not pleasant ones; she must get them just as men deal with each other. She can not enter the arena among men and then expect to shield herself from criticism behind her femininity. We think that *female Masonry mixed with men is not to the credit of woman, and is very derogatory to the venerable, dignified Order of Freemasonry.*

We have no objection to women organizing *secret societies*, and calling them Masonic; have no objection to their having female tramps—just as we men Masons, to our disgrace, have had—going through the country organizing their female Lodges, *provided*, they will keep the *organization to themselves*, not allowing us men to become members of it. We have not a word to say against that kind of female Masonry. We fear, however, that our idea will not meet with favor from either the male or female Masonic tramps of female Masonry.

And now we say our work is done for 1895.

LAUS DEO.

E. T. CARSON..

R.: E.: Sir Knight John P. McCune, Grand Commander; Sir John Bell, Grand Recorder; R.: E.: Sir Enoch Carson, Correspondent.

#### PENNSYLVANIA—1895.

Forty-second Annual at the city of Reading, in May. Present: R.: E.: Sir Irving P. Wagner, Grand Commander; Sir M. H. Smith, Grand Recorder, 12 Past Grand Commanders, 10 Grand Representatives, including ours, and the Representatives of 62 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is quite long, well written and business from start to finish. Among the dispensations he refused to grant was one to allow a Commandery to "carry the American flag in a drill after inspection and review of the second division."

Why our distinguished brother should object to the presence of "Old Glory" on the occasion referred to, we are at a loss to imagine. It occurs to this writer that, as E. C. of his own Commandery, it would be a long time before he asked for dispensation to carry the flag of his country anywhere, at any time, where any banner is allowed. He also refused one of his subordinates permission to attend church on Sunday. This and the flag episode have a kind of bilious appearance and indicate, to an outsider, that the R.: E.: must have fallen off the perch along about that time.

His decisions were quite numerous, full, explicit and in accordance with law and sense.



An excellent portrait of the R. E. adorns the pamphlet.

We find nothing in the proceedings of general interest. Total membership 10,943—a gain of 349. This puts the Key Stone State in the lead in the matter of Templar membership, New York being 233 behind her, with a total of 10,710, and Massachusetts a good third with 10,384 swords.

The correspondence covers 82 pages and is the second annual production of Bro. Lee Smith. He opens his excellent review as follows:

By appointment of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, we herewith present our second annual report on Correspondence.

How quickly the Templar years speed by none realize more fully than do the official correspondents. One year's report is completed with a sigh of relief, but scarcely is it submitted than copies of subsequent Conclaves of the various Grand Commanderies begin to drop in, and in order that the work shall not accumulate, their review is begun, and so another year is soon past and another report must be submitted.

And so the years of our earthly pilgrimage, with all their privileges and responsibilities, are swiftly passing by, and soon we will be called upon, "one by one," to make our final report to the Grand Commander of the Universe.

We see no reason for changing the policy outlined in our last report, so follow the same general plan. We have carefully read, and tried to fairly and impartially review, all the proceedings that have reached us, as follows:

We infer from the above that our brother is getting along in years; as, to the old, time flies, while to the young his movements are slow. His review of Mississippi is short, but courteous. Anent the report of Law Committee, he says:

The Committee on Templar Law reported the following question submitted to them at last Annual Conclave:

*Question.* Can a member of a Commandery in this jurisdiction, who is a non-affiliated Master Mason, and who does not contribute to the funds of the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides, be permitted to visit and associate with the members of his Commandery?"

In answering they take the ground—most positively—that under the laws of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Mississippi, he cannot, although at same time and in same report they acknowledge that "the rulings of the Grand Encampment are diametrically opposed" to such a view. How they will reconcile such rulings in the face of edicts and rulings of the Grand Encampment—the body to which they hold allegiance—we cannot understand, but leave that for the Grand Encampment to settle. Note the summing up of report:

"The conclusion of the committee, therefore, is that the law of the Grand Lodge is supreme, and must be obeyed. The non-contributing non-affiliate cannot sit in a Commandery in Mississippi, notwithstanding the law of the Grand Encampment permits him to do so, because the highest power in Masonry, the Grand Lodge, forbids it."

To put it mildly, it sounds like Speed.

We can reconcile "such rulings" with common honesty and horse sense in the face of all the rulings and edicts of the Grand Encampment, as well as all other "Grands," by the simple proposition that our first

allegiance is due the Grand Lodge, and the fact that no obligations subsequent to those taken in the "Blue Lodge" required any departure from or violation of our allegiance to the fundamental institution. The Grand Encampment, composed as it is of Master Masons, is guilty of treason and perjury, when it presumes to set aside or overrule the laws and edicts of any Grand Lodge, and, such being the case, there is no legal or moral obligation resting upon us to obey its fulminations when they run counter to the laws of the Grand Lodge. At all events we don't propose to do it.

We copy his "conclusion:"

Another year has passed away, and our work is once more brought to a close.

While the task of reviewing the proceedings of the various Grand Commanderies is an arduous one, yet it has rich compensations in permitting us in mind to associate with the writers of the Templar world and in imagination to visit the various Grand Conclaves.

Nothing of special note has occurred or been under discussion during the year.

True, the proceedings of one Grand Commandery incidentally referred to the question of the Trinity as an essential element in Templar Masonry, but we consider the belief in the Trinity so interwoven into every atom of the Templar Ritual and structure as to leave no room whatever for discussion or argument. If there be no firm belief in the Trinity, then, to a certainty, is our house builded on sand.

A question that has caused more discussion than any other is the law of the Grand Encampment which permits a Templar to be in good standing in his Commandery though non-affiliated in Lodge and Chapter.

The laws of several Grand Commanderies come in direct conflict with this enactment, as they require affiliation in both Lodge and Chapter in order to be in good standing in the Commandery, and in consequence decisions have been made in some of these jurisdictions which come in direct conflict with the law and rulings of the Supreme Body. How such action can be reconciled and yet the bodies remain under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, we are at a loss to see. The law of the Grand Encampment on this subject may be wrong, and we are inclined to the belief in its injustice. Yet while it stands upon the statute books of the Supreme governing body it is *the law*, and all laws of Subordinate Grand Commanderies should be made to conform to it until it is repealed. The question will undoubtedly come up for consideration at the next Grand Encampment.

The noble stand taken by the Grand Commander of California in 1893, on the impropriety of using intoxicating liquors at Temple banquets, has received high commendation in several jurisdictions. Let the good work go on until it spreads from ocean to ocean and thereby our noble Order take a step higher.

To the members of the *Corps Reportorial* we can but express our high appreciation for their kindly words of welcome to the *Guild*, as well as commendation of our first report submitted in 1894.

Our lifework is going on as the years roll swiftly by. We are having an influence, not only on our fellow-men of to-day, but we are building characters that will exert an influence on coming generations, when we shall have passed away and gone to our reward.

At this the close of another Templar year shall we pause to ask ourselves, How is it with us? What sort of a structure are we building? Is it founded on a rock—"The Rock of Ages?"

For we are all

“ Building silently but surely,  
Whether we will or no;  
Building while the passing moments  
Swiftly come and go,  
Structures whether good or ill  
Yet for aye are building still.  
God grant that our work may be  
Fit for an Eternity:  
That the Master Builder say,  
When shall come life's closing day  
Well done! thou hast wrought with care,  
Enter now, my joys to share.”

“ So mote it be.”

LEE S. SMITH,  
*For Committee.*

R. E. Edward B. Spencer is Grand Commander; E. Sir Mont. H. Smith, Grand Recorder; and E. Sir Lee S. Smith, Correspondent.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA—1895.

Twelfth Annual at Sioux Falls, June 18th and 19th. Present: R. E. Sir W. J. McMackin, Grand Commander; E. Sir William H. Holt, Grand Recorder, six Past Grand Commanders, quite an army of Grand Representatives and Past Eminent Commanders, and the Representatives of eight out of fourteen Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a well written resume of the administration of the R. E., but is entirely local in its references. He pays eloquent and mutual tribute to the magnanimous dead, especially E. Sir Collins D. Pratt, Senior Grand Warden, who had died during the year. Peace to the ashes of each one and all, and may the gentle and loving touch of the Master heal and comfort the hearts that have been bereaved.

He reports a total membership of 781—a gain of 26, and remarks that this does not show a very prosperous condition of the Order, while we think it a very healthy growth if the material is good.

He issued dispensation for one new Commandery.

We find the following in the minutes, which inclines us to the belief that there is something radically wrong in the statutes of the Grand Chapter or the By-Laws of the Subordinate that refused to reinstate a Companion suspended for non-payment of dues, when he offers to settle up:

#### SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPLAR JURISPRUDENCE.

The following statement and question was submitted to the Committee:

A Sir Knight, member of a Commandery, was suspended for non-payment of dues in his Lodge and Chapter. Afterwards he paid his dues to the Lodge and was reinstated. He tendered his dues to the Chapter, but the Chapter, by a vote, failed to reinstate him. What is his status in relation to his Commandery?

The suspension of the member in the Lodge and Chapter, operated, by force of Templar Law, to suspend him in the Commandery, and, inasmuch as the Chapter failed to reinstate him, he is still under sentence of suspension in that body, and by reason thereof, he remains suspended in the Commandery.

PARK DAVIS,  
GEO. F. AYERS,  
B. F. CAMPBELL,  
Committee.

Which report was concurred in.

It is, we believe a universal law that suspension for this cause shall cease and determine the moment the dues are paid. Poverty, while not pleasant, is not a crime, and in the great majority of cases a lack of means is the cause of failure to pay, and suspension results.

Correspondence covers 75 pages, and is the finished production of Sir George A. Pettigrew, who reviews the transactions of most of the Templar governing bodies, like an old hand at the bellows. He opens as follows:

As the Committee of one on Correspondence, I have the honor to submit herewith my first annual report, the same being the third report since the organization of this Grand Commandery in May, 1884.

I have endeavored to mention all matters that are of general interest, particularly so to the fraters of South Dakota who are not granted the privilege of perusing the several proceedings of other Grand Jurisdictions. Clippings are numerous. For two reasons I have not attempted the discussion of Templar Jurisprudence: First, I am young in the harness. Second, it has been impossible to secure a copy of the Code of Templar Law.

As the above foreshadows, he is chary in indulging in the luxury of blowing his own trumpet, which is wrong in principle and fact. Masonic Law, is, *or ought to be*, simply common, horse sense, and any enactments, resolutions or edicts that run counter to this governing proposition, are good things to use a club on. As we are satisfied that Bro. P. is a man of good, sound sense, we insist on his pitching right in, without regard to his youth or the absence, from his library, of the "Code of Templar Law." We have one or more somewhere, but as we have no use for them we would cheerfully send them to our brother, postage paid, if we could find them. Mississippi for '94, gets five pages in this report. He quotes the reports of the Law Committee on jurisdiction and the status of non-affiliates, but expresses no opinion on the subjects at issue.

He honors this Committee with some pleasant words and intimates that a dearth of ducats prevented the publication of former reports on Correspondence. We are poor, too, but cannot afford to do without necessities, but dispense, usually, with luxuries in the shape of portraits of Past Grand Officers.

We note that the South Dakota pamphlet is adorned by a good picture of the retiring Grand Commander. The face is kindly in its expression, good looking, and the head-piece indicates brain-power, above the average.

As we have already given South Dakota a right smart lot of space, we will say good night.

R.: E.: Sir Frank A. Brown is Grand Commander; Bro. George A. Pettigrew, Grand Recorder, and Past Grand Commander Samuel H. Jumper, Correspondent.

Jump right in, Bro. Jumper, and make "Rome howl!"

#### TENNESSEE—1895.

Thirty-third Annual at Nashville, May 8th and 9th. R.: E.: Chas. H. Eastman, Grand Commander; E.: Sir Wilbur F. Foster, Grand Recorder, seven Grand Commanders, many Grand and the Representatives of fifteen Subordinate Commanderies were present.

The Grand Commander's address is short, but strictly business. We clip the following from his opening:

The Templar year that has just passed has been an unusually quiet and uneventful one, so far as it relates to this jurisdiction. The continued financial depression which has existed throughout our entire land, paralyzing industries of all kinds, and bringing in its train embarrassment and distress to all classes, has had its baleful influence also upon the progress and development of our beloved Order. As a result, we are numerically weaker than when we gathered in Annual Conclave a year ago. It affords me pleasure, however, to report that while there has been such scant encouragement in this direction, the utmost good feeling has existed throughout the entire jurisdiction; peace and harmony have prevailed; thorough discipline has been maintained in most of the Commanderies, and all seem to have perfected themselves in the Ritual of the Order.

Under "Necrology" we find this, which will call to the remembrance of many of you, the visit from this most excellent and beloved Sir Knight to our Grand Commandery some years ago:

Sir John Frizzell, Past Grand Commander and Past Grand Recorder of this Grand Commandery, died at his residence in Nashville, on November 30th, 1894. Official announcement of this bereavement was made through General Order No. 3, on the 6th of December last. He was a devoted Mason and Templar, a wise counselor, a faithful and trusted guide. Whether in the Subordinate Commandery or the Grand Encampment of the United States, he was "a leader among men," wielding at all times an influence that was irresistible. "A Prince in Israel, and a great man is fallen."

The long and painful illness that he was called upon to endure was borne with that patience and fortitude that characterized him under all circumstances, and at the end he was upheld and comforted by that unfaltering faith in Christ Jesus, our Lord, that had always sustained him throughout his earthly pilgrimage, and he passed away without a doubt or fear to disturb him.

"Asleep in Jesus. Oh, how sweet  
To be for such a slumber meet;  
With holy confidence to sing  
That Death has lost his venom'd sting."

Peace to his ashes, and our most sincere condolence and loving sym-

pathy to the family of our late brother and the Order in Tennessee.

Among his dispensations we find one allowing all his subordinates "to appear in public, in full uniform, for the purpose of attending and participating in the ceremonies of dedication of the *Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home*, at Nashville, May 24th." In this sort of good work, and it is the best of all works, our Tennessee brethren are a trifle ahead of us, but we hope to "get there, Eli," before many decades of years have passed. Anent this charity, the Grand Commander says:

MASONIC WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' HOME.

At the last Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Finance and Accounts, an appropriation of two hundred dollars was made to the *Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home*, "subject to the payment of such other accounts as the Grand Treasurer may owe, and that if the balance in the treasury shall fall below such sum, only the balance be appropriated."

It was discovered upon settlement of the accounts and appropriations made by the Grand Commandery, that there was no balance in the treasury out of which to pay this appropriation, but on the contrary, a deficit, and hence the Home failed to receive anything from the Grand Commandery.

There is no nobler mission for Templar or profane than to care for the widow and orphan. It is that "pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father" that Masons especially should never fail to practice. I earnestly trust that some valuable assistance may this year be rendered to this noble institution which so thoroughly exemplifies that divine principle.

The whole address is good. Portraits of its author and Past Grand Commander Brooks adorn the pamphlet. We say *adorn*, for they are both exceptionally fine looking men.

The proceedings contain nothing of special interest to outsiders.

Total membership 1,065—a *loss* of 29!

A "Grand Conclave of Sorrow" was held on May 8th, in memory of Bro. Frizzell, at which an eloquent, but deserved, eulogy upon the life and character of the lamented dead, was pronounced by Rev. Sir Richard W. Binkley. We should like to copy it, but the lack of space forbids.

The Correspondence covers 62 pages, reviews the minutes of nearly all the Templar Legislatures, Mississippi for 1894 included, and is, we assume, (as we find nothing to indicate its paternity in the pamphlet) the work of Grand Recorder Foster, who is a worthy successor of our beloved Bro. Connor, although his style and the general get up of the report differs widely from those of Bro. C.

He gives Mississippi a page. Referring to Fred's report on non-affiliates, he says:

A very full report was presented by Sir Frederic Speed, for the Committee on Templar Law, in answer to the question: Can a member of a Commandery in Mississippi, who is a nonaffiliated Master Mason, and who does not contribute to the funds of the Lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides, be permitted to visit and associate with the members

of his Commandery? His answer is, that the law of the Grand Lodge being that such person is not entitled to, or permitted to exercise the rights, benefits, and privileges of the Lodge, and the Grand Lodge being the supreme governing power in Masonry, its power must prevail; that the Edict of the Grand Encampment, which is the opposite of this, being the inferior in authority, must give way, because "every order, decree, edict or resolution of a pseudo-Masonic Body which does not conform to the law of the Grand Lodge, is absolutely void."

The necessary conclusion is, that a Grand Lodge may, at any time, by the enactment of a retroactive or *ex post facto* law, legislate or decree out of existence the Templar Order in the State over which the Grand Lodge has jurisdiction—a conclusion to which we enter our emphatic dissent.

Don't be alarmed, Bro. Foster. Whenever the Templar Order is reduced so low as to be endangered by such legislation as you suggest, it *ought to die*, or be killed. We would not give two-bits for all the non-affiliated Master-Mason Templars in the United States. They were good for nothing in the Lodge, and, per consequence, are worthless anywhere else. "If the foundation be destroyed (or ignored) what can the righteous do?" Answer: They can't do anything to amount to much, neither can Templar Masonry cut loose from the Blue Lodge and enjoy one-tenth of the respect and consideration of the world, it now does. Who cares for the decrees and fulminations of the Grand Encampment when they run counter to the rules and regulations of a Grand Lodge of Masons? Nobody in this neck of woods. Scarcely!

We thank our brother for his kind words in regard to our report. The report merited them and we accept them as eminently proper, right and our due! Had we discovered, sooner, that Bro. F. had devoted but *one page* to Mississippi, we *might* have been less liberal in our treatment of him.

Sir Orion L. Hurlbut is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### TEXAS—1895.

Forty-first Annual at Waco, April 17th.

The pamphlet opens with an address at First Presbyterian Church by Rev. and Sir Knight J. C. Carpenter. The sermon is an admirable one and we would quote it entire did our *limited* space permit. After devotional offices, the Grand Commandery repaired to its Asylum, where it was opened in "Ample form." Sir E. J. Fry, R. E. Grand Commander, presiding.

The address is a short but well written resume of his administration. He reports the Order in a fairly prosperous condition.

His decisions are in accord with law and common sense. No buncombe dispensations were granted.

The Deputy Grand Commander reported having granted a dispensation "to ballot out of time, the reasons given by said Commandery being deemed sufficient."

For this assumption of authority not vested in his office, the Committee sat down on him and thus nipped in the bud this new prerogative of Deputy Grand Commanders. Had the Grand Commander been absent from the State, *then* the Deputy could have sailed in and dispensed to his heart's content and with propriety.

A Committee of One visited the "Hub" for the purpose of arranging for headquarters for the Grand Commandery. Texas being a great State they seem inclined to do things with a big augur.

The Subordinate Commanderies in this jurisdiction are required to drill in public, or otherwise, at least four times each year, and any violation of this rule subjects the offending Commandery to public reprimand by the Grand Commander, and a second offense makes them liable to suspension of charter.

Courteous greeting was received from Bro. C. A. Hotchkiss, Grand Representative of Mississippi, and from others.

Correspondence report covers 59 pages, reviews the minutes of 40 Templar Grand Bodies in a pleasant and courteous vein, and is the work of Sir Robt. M. Elgin. We clip as follows from his review of Bro. Rickon's (of Arkansaw) report:

Sir Fred is not altogether pleased with the new Ritual. He

"The writer, wishes they had gone a little further and completed the Red Cross and making Z— return to Jerusalem, then reporting the result of his mission and closing there instead of in Babylon."

We think the Ritual must be admissible if no greater objection can be found to it than is given above."

In an ordinary romance, when the author has carried his hero and heroine through all the trials and vicissitudes incident to the course of true love and the last scheme of the customary villain to destroy or separate them is by some unexpected circumstance frustrated and every obstacle to a happy marriage removed, it is competent for the novelist to describe the event that unites them and to tell how it was followed by years of married life and blessed by numerous descendants. But when that romance is dramatized and the scenes are acted on the stage, it is different. There, when the last scheme of the enemy fails, and he is detected in his villainy, the obstacles all removed, and the hands of the lovers joined, the curtain drops and the happy effect of the denouement is complete.

It seems to us the analogies make our Ritual right. It is a drama; the scenes are laid in different places and separate actors represent the several characters in the drama. There is no historic inconsistency in the plot and the curtain drops and the scene is ended with its denouement. Some improvement might be made in a few of the minor details, perhaps, but we do not think it needs anything in the direction indicated.

The Red Cross in the new Ritual aint worth shucks. In the old it was a beautiful degree. We are inclined to think that Bro. Elgin is on top in the discussion of the particular feature referred to above.

He has this to say anent the law report at Holly Springs, in regard to non-affiliation:

Without having the statute of the Grand Lodge before us, we can



express no opinion as to its scope and the proper construction to be placed on it. We take it for granted that Sir Knight Speed has correctly stated what the law is, and what construction the Grand Lodge places on it. The Grand Lodge is supreme in its jurisdiction and has the right to make what laws it chooses and to put whatever construction on them that it pleases, and the Masons in that jurisdiction are bound by them. We believe, however, that a Mason has some rights that cannot be taken from him by an arbitrary decree, without violating the principles and landmarks of the Order. When a man is made a Mason, he enters into certain engagements which he cannot throw off. These engagements are to a certain extent mutual between the individual and the great body of Masons. We believe that a Mason who does not, without a cause, contribute to the support of the Lodge, should be deprived of the benefits of the Lodge. But when a Grand Lodge takes from him without a trial all his rights as a Mason, the act will be so generally condemned as arbitrary and tyrannical by the fraternity at large as not to be respected outside of its own jurisdiction.

In which we do not concur.

We are grateful for his kind words in regard to this writer.

A gentleman, especially a Christian gentleman, never hesitates a moment to acknowledge and deplore his faults. Fifty years of observation have taught us this truth.

Under Ohio, and reviewing Bro. Enoch's report, he indulges in the following humorous remarks :

He is also considerate of us young fellows, and lest we should be misled by the Munchausen stories of Smith, adds a chapter giving a veritable and truthful account of a voyage in and to the Holy Land, by an old chum of his who spent thirty-five years in a pilgrimage to that country, beginning in 1322. It is embellished with unique pictures from photos taken by his "special artist on the ground," one of which represents Cain slaying Able with a garden hoe, very similar to the latest patented by the U. S. patent office. This truthful narrator found the city where the tragedy occurred. He also found a nation of people that had but one foot, but were so dexterous in its use that they traveled with wonderful rapidity. He gives the picture of one of them, his single foot being so large that he is represented as reclining on the ground and using his foot to shade his body from the sun. He saw the place where Adam was formed, and might have brought a specimen of the clay with which he was made. He visited the cave where Adam and Eve spent their honeymoon, after leaving the Garden of Eden. He saw the cistern in which Joseph was cast by his brethren, stood where Jacob slept when he saw that wonderful vision of the ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and saw the tree on which Judas hanged himself.

Our Bro. Elgin gets up an admirable report, one of the very best in the lot, albeit he is not a little "off color" in his ideas of the rights of Masonic drones—non-affiliates—and the prerogatives and just rights of Grand Lodges.

Sir John McDonald is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent unchanged.

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#### VERMONT—1895.

Fifty-third Annual at Burlington, June 11th. Ther were present :  
R. E. Mark O. Perkins, Grand Commander, E. Sir W. G. Reynolds,

Grand Recorder, six Past Grand Commanders, twenty-six Grand Representatives (ours included,) and Representatives of ten Subordinate Commanderies.

Grand Commander Perkins' address is worthy of its distinguished author, who was formerly a member of the Guild of Reporters, and did some scrimmaging with this Committee in reference to parades on occasions not strictly or remotely Masonic.

His opening chorus follows:

With fraternal greetings we assemble to review the year passed, and to make the record of the 53d Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. Having joined with the Grand Chaplain in our devotions, and reverently asked of the Great Captain of our Salvation his protecting care and aid in our deliberations, we are more deeply impressed with the importance of the duties devolving upon us, and the grave responsibilities incurred in their discharge. The cycle of the year with its succession of hopes and fears realized, joys and sorrows experienced, victories and defeats recorded, has added to those responsibilities, and it behooves us to meet them with the courage and constancy of the pilgrim warrior, and the faith of the pilgrim penitent. Inspired with strength and wisdom from on high, we may hope to achieve something for the advancement of the standard of our Order, and to make the name of Knight Templar, in very truth, the synonym of all that is pure and noble and grand in life. In this spirit, I cordially welcome you to this Annual Conclave, and, through you, am pleased to acknowledge the knightly greetings of the valiant Templars throughout the State.

The review of the year will show that peace and prosperity continue within our lines, and that our harmonious relations with sister jurisdictions remain intact. Disturbing elements have been conspicuous only by their absence, and, so far as known, ground for complaint exists nowhere. Accessions to membership in the Subordinate Commanderies have been unusually large, and it is hoped and believed, that none but those worthy of the honor have thus gained admission to our asylums. If this be true, the record will indeed afford just cause for congratulation and rejoicing in coming years to all participating in the present activity. The record is now gratifying, but is also shadowed with sadness by the thought of the vacant places in our asylums, because of the approach of the grim messenger of Death.

He pays appropriate tribute to the memory and merit of the fraternal dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions. Much space in the address is taken for the reports of his staff, as inspecting officers. Owing to physical disability he was unable to do anything whatever. He has our sympathy and our hope that he is now in excellent health.

Having the courage of his honest convictions and not being burdened with loyalty to the rules of the Grand Encampment, he let fly the following:

General Orders, No. 3.

1. Permission is hereby granted to the Commanderies of our obedience to accept the invitation of Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, within the State, to perform escort duty on Memorial Day, May

30, *prox.*, and this shall be full authority for appearance in public in uniform in the discharge of such accepted duty.

MARSH O. PERKINS,

Grand Commander.

Official:

Ephriam is still in his normal condition, let him rip!

He closes as follows:

In conclusion, Sir Knights, accept anew the heartfelt expression of the deep appreciation of the many favors received at your hand during the years we have been associated together as members of the Grand Commandery. Your many free-will offerings of honor and Knightly regard, of fraternal love and friendship, will ever be treasured in grateful remembrance. The severing of these most pleasant official relations, is attended with a pang of regret that I have been able to accomplish so little as your Grand Commander, but there comes the happier thought that possibly some word may have been spoken, some slight act performed, that may have tended to awaken some brother to the grave responsibilities resting upon all who assume the name of a Christian Knight. These responsibilities increase with our advantages, and it devolves upon all to be prepared to meet them, when comes the crucial test, with the courage and independence of that true manhood, which shall ennoble the conditions that surround us, broaden the influence of Templarism and strengthen the forces that shall successfully cope with the enemies of truth and justice, until the light of Christianity and brotherly love shall illumine the whole world.

His portrait adorns the pamphlet. He is right good looking, but has a sort of "come if you dare" look, nevertheless.

Grand Recorder's report shows a total membership of 1,396—a gain of 73. Total receipts of cash \$928.00.

Treasurer's report shows a balance in hand of \$1,206.34.

Past Grand Commander Kittredge Hoskins comes to the front with his second report on Correspondence, in which he digests the transactions of 39 Templar Grand Bodies in his customary courteous and pleasant style. Mississippi for 1894, gets three pages.

He has this to say anent Fred's law report:

In a similar case which arose in California, Most Eminent Grand Master Gobin decided that, "The Code is explicit in deciding that a Templar by merely becoming non-affiliate in Lodge or Chapter, does not lose his standing in the Commandery. Each Grand Body must have the exclusive right to determine the qualifications of its own membership. Neither the Grand Lodge nor Grand Chapter can legislate for the Grand Commandery, nor impose any burden upon its membership. Therefore these bodies cannot, by enactment, prescribe qualifications for the orders of Knighthood. Upon this point the Grand Encampment has been very explicit, and in different reports has adopted and adhered to the principle enunciated in the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence in 1889, as referred to by you. This leaves each Masonic Body independent of the others, and unless the Grand Lodge will compel their members to become Knights Templar, there seems to be no reason why the Grand Encampment or a Grand Commandery should compel its members to remain affiliated with them."

All of which is "too thin." We clip the following, which we trust

Bro. Ruckle will pardon, as it is but one of many pleasant things said of us in the pamphlet we have examined so far, this year :

The Correspondence Report is the fifteenth written by R. E. Sir E. Geo. DeLap, and reviews the proceedings of thirty-two Grand Bodies. We admire the style of his composition, which, while always courteous to his brethren of the "pen and scissors," it bears unmistakable evidence that he is a Sir Knight who has well settled convictions of his own, and also has the courage of his convictions. Brother DeLap and our own Perkins, (not Eli,) have had some tilts with the pen which has afforded on-lookers no small amount of amusement. They both wield a Damascus blade, sharp and pointed. The latter we have known a great many years, and know him to be a genial companion and a loyal Sir Knight. The former we are just beginning to get acquainted with, and the nearer we get to him the more we admire him. We find no fault with his criticisms of any of our Vermont Templars. If we cannot agree, we will live and disagree in a brotherly manner. We hope to meet him at the Triennial.

And none, but his, has been unpleasant, and that would not have been so, had it only been true.

Under "Oregon," we find him indulging in the following extremely sensible essay on what Templars are, or should be, expected to believe, etc., in all of which we concur, except that we would leave out the Church as one of the methods of transmission. The Holy Scriptures are all that is needed and are the only safe guide in matters of a spiritual nature. The Church *per se*, is not always a safe pilot. Each one of several of these claim infallibility and that they are right and all the rest wrong, and there is bound to be a mistake somewhere. But when we go to God's own Word, which is so plain that the most simple can understand unto his own salvation, there is no room for error.

But here is the clipping:

We did not undertake to formulate or endorse any additional "creed" or "confession of faith," for the Templar. The question simply was, What is the Christian Religion which we Knights Templar are bound to believe? We undertook to inform them what it is; and on the other hand what it is not. The Order of the Temple is a Christian Order and every candidate is bound to declare that "I am a firm believer in the Christian Religion." Now, the Christian Religion is nothing new, and is not the invention of modern scientists and scholars. Was taught by Jesus Christ, and by him committed to the Apostles and by them transmitted to us through the Holy Scriptures and the Church. It involves a belief in the Holy Scriptures as being the inspired word of God, in the resurrection and ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Any man, religious sect, or body of men, that reject the doctrine of the inspiration of the Scriptures, the resurrection and ascension as recorded by the Holy Evangelists, no matter by what name they are called, are not "firm believers in the Christian Religion," such as Knights Templar are bound to believe. And this is no new "creed," or "confession of faith." A Knight Templar who denies this, ought to tear the cross from his regalia, lay them all away as a relic of superstition, and no longer participate in our solemn ceremonies. As for me, I believe in the reality of what we teach our candidates, and cannot believe that our noble Order teaches a lie.

While our Vermont brethren may be a little "off color" on dress parades and escort duties, for Templars, they are sound theologically, which is of more importance.

R.: E.: Sir Silas W. Cummings is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

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#### VIRGINIA—1894.

Seventy-second Annual at Richmond November 15th. R.: E.: E. E. Downham, Grand Commander; Sir W. B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder, 18 out of 20 Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The Grand Commander's address is a good one, but confined to local matters.

The condition of the Order in that jurisdiction is a subject on which he congratulates the Grand Body, prosperity and harmony prevailing. His dispensations were quite numerous, but for proper purposes.

His decisions are unimportant.

The proceedings were short and devoid of general interest.

Total membership 1,365—a gain of 114.

There is no report on Correspondence. Why this is thus, we are unable to say.

As these proceedings are growing old, and as those of the current year may reach us before February, we refrain from an extended review.

R.: E.: Parke Corbin, Grand Commander; R.: E.: W. B. Isaacs, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### WEST VIRGINIA—1895.

Twenty-first Annual at Fairmont, May 8th. Present: R.: E.: W. W. Van Winkle, Grand Commander; Sir R. C. Dunnington, Grand Recorder, eight Past Grand Officers, and the Representatives of nine out of ten Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a business paper, pure and simple. He reports the outlook as being good for a general revival of Masonic interests in that jurisdiction. His dispensations were few and for proper purposes. His visitations were quite general. No decisions.

He pays the following deserved compliment to our good Bro. Long, (Old Style):

It is eminently proper to make acknowledgment of the able, full and satisfactory manner in which the committee have performed the duty of collecting and reporting on this subject. While so much is due the committee, more praise should be accorded Rt. Em. Sir O. S. Long, by whom the labor of compiling has been done, for the intelligent,

plain, readable and instructive style the correspondence is presented. He has performed his duty well and faithfully, and deserves as he is entitled to thanks, as the least recognition that can be accorded him.

You had better pay him \$50, or a \$100, for the job. He can't buy marketing with "thanks." Besides, the work is worth the price named.

A portrait of the R. E. adorns the pamphlet.

Several of the staff submitted reports of inspection and other duties performed by them.

The Grand Recorder's report shows total receipts of \$756.00, and total membership of 781—a gain of 55.

A Special Committee on "Christmas Observance," submitted the following Ritual for that occasion, which strikes us as being peculiarly appropriate, beautiful and just what is needed to make the observance of sufficient solemnity and interest to commend it to intelligent Christian men. We should be glad to see it adopted by our jurisdiction, which is our reason for copying it here :

#### CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE.

On Christmas Day the Knights will assemble in their Asylum one hour before the official hour of observance without uniforms. The hours are: Eastern time, 12 noon; Central time, 11 o'clock; Western time, 10 o'clock; Pacific time, 9 o'clock.

The Triangle will be placed in position, on which will be twelve goblets, also one on the pedestal of the Commander. Glasses will be provided for all the Templars present.

Allowing sufficient time in which to perform the following exercises before the official hour arrives, the Commander, Prelate and Recorder will take their stations, the Knights will be seated as usual and the Commander will sound the gavel:

CHOIR.

HARK THE HERALD.

7s

1. Hark, the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new born king,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.
2. See He lays His glory by;  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth;  
Born to give them second birth.
3. Hail, the Holy Prince of peace.  
Hail the Son of righteousness.  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.

(More elaborate music may be used if desired by the participants.)

E. C.—Excellent Prelate reads us the old, old story.

(Prelate reads Isaiah xi: 1-5; Matthew i: 4, 8-14.)

P.—And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and shall

make of him quick understanding in the fear of the Lord, and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.

With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth, and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now, the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to publicly expose her, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now, all this came to pass, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

\* \* \* \* \*

And Joseph went up from Gallilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem.

And lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly host praising God; and saying,

Choir.—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

(Then shall be sung in an adjacent room, but which singing must be quite distinct in the Asylum, a solo.)

1. Lo! a star, ye sages hoary;  
Lo! a wondrous star above;  
He is born, the King of glory,  
He, our wondrous star of love.
2. Lord of life, Redeemer, Master,  
Loud the shepherd's welcome rolls,  
He is born, the people's shepherd,  
Aye, the shepherd of our souls.

CHOIR.—(Arranged as an anthem.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow:  
Praise Him all creatures here below:  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(If sung in long measure merely, all Templars present should join.)

E. C.—Sir Knights, on this joyous day we commemorate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, Emanuel, author of our salvation, and the Great Captain under whose banner all of us have enlisted.

On this day, 189- years ago, there was born in Bethlehem of Judea, one who laid aside the god-head and assumed mortal flesh, one whose glory, worth and grace no language can express, one who was born that our lives might be purified, and who died that our souls might be redeemed from the penalty of sin.

Let us, as true soldiers of the Cross, strive to profit by the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of that divine Master, and remain His faithful soldiers unto death. Seeking strength to continue that struggle let us now accompany our Excellent Prelate to the throne of the Heavenly grace. Excellent Prelate lead our devotions.

(All rise, then kneel on the right knee, and bow heads. The Excellent Prelate will offer the following):

#### PRAYER.

Almighty and most merciful Father, remember us with pity, we beseech Thee, and blot out the multitude of our transgressions, for Thy beloved Son's sake. And may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Father in Heaven command Thy blessing to rest upon all true Knights of the Temple wherever dispersed, bestow upon them a spirit of truth, justice, courage, constancy, faith and humility, and make them valiant defenders of Thy holy religion. Teach them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted, for Jesus' sake.

All.—Amen.)

O Lord, command Thy benediction to rest upon our Grand Master. Help him to rule over us in love, and with an eye single to Thy glory. Save him from error, prejudice and pride, and while giving him firmness of purpose to do right, help him to know the right, for Christ's sake.

(All.—Amen.)

Father, let Thy choicest blessings be with the President of the United States, and upon all in authority over us. Endue them with wisdom on high, and may it be their chiefest joy to labor for Thy glory and the good of the people for whom they legislate, and over whom they rule. Which we ask in the name of Jesus, Emanuel.

(All.—Amen.)

If there are any minutes to spare, conversation and congratulations will now occur, while twelve Knights are being selected to form around the Triangle. At exactly five minutes before the official hour the Eminent Commander will sound his gavel, when all will be seated.

The Eminent Commander will then say:

E. C.—Let the chosen twelve form around the Triangle. (Done.)

Let the water be poured into the goblets on the Triangle and on the Pedestal. (Done.)

Let every Knight be furnished with a prepared goblet. (Done.)

Thus prepared, there will be silence until two minutes before the hour. Just two minutes before the hour:

#### THE TOAST.

E. C.—Sir Knights, arise. Sir Knight Recorder, read the sentiment. (The Recorder will read the sentiment.)

E. C.—(On the first stroke of the hour.) To our Grand Master. Drink.

(The Knights repeat "To our Grand Master," and drink.)

E. C.—Sir Knight Recorder, read Grand Master's response.

(The Recorder will read the response in a clear, loud voice.)



## OTHER TOASTS.

The Eminent Commander will then offer the following toasts, which will be drank in the same manner as that to the Grand Master :

1. To the Grand Commander Knights Templar of West Virginia.
2. To all Knights Templar, wherever dispersed.
3. To all Knights Templar who have shed their blood in defense of liberty and Christianity. (Silence and heads bowed, no drinking.)
4. To the Grand Master of Masons in West Virginia.
5. To the Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter of West Virginia.

## IN MEMORIAM.

E. C.—Let us recall the virtues of the Fraters of our own jurisdiction who have joined the silent majority.

(The Knights at the Triangle will lay their goblets on the Triangle.)

E. C.—In memory of the dead of this jurisdiction, during the year 189—:

The Knights at the Triangle will drop on the right knee ; all the Knights will bow their heads, and then will be sung in low tones, by the choir :

Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee ;  
Even though it be a cross  
That raiseth me ;  
Still all my song will be,  
Nearer, my God to thee,  
Nearer to thee.

E. C.—Sir Knights, arise. We have been refreshed by these hallowed memories, now, let us receive the benediction of our Excellent Prelate.

P.—May the Lord bless thee and keep thee ; may the Lord make his face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee ; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Adopted.

The Correspondence covers 85 pages and is good, from start to finish. Its author is our good Bro. Old Style Long, and in it he pays his respects to nearly all the Templar family of Grands, including Mississippi for 1894. He has this to say anent Fred's report on the non-affiliate matter :

An interesting question is ably discussed by Sir Frederic Speed in the report of the regular committee on Templar Law. A law of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi deprives a non-affiliated Master Mason of all the rights, benefits and privileges of Masonry—that is, it deprives him of “good standing” and places upon him virtually all of the disabilities of one suspended or expelled. The laws of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templars, upon the other hand, do not regard non-affiliation in the Blue Lodge as a Masonic offense, and do not, for this cause, hold the non-affiliate as ineligible or unworthy of the orders of Masonic Knighthood. The question in Mississippi was, which law is paramount? Can the Grand Lodge make a law which will govern the Grand Commandery, or can the Grand Encampment make a ruling which will set aside and annul, in so far as Knights Templar are concerned, a statute of the Grand Lodge? Knights Templar in Mississippi have been obligated to obedience to both of these Masonic powers. What is

their duty when the laws conflict, and to which is paramount obedience due?

Bro. Speed discusses the matter at some length and with all of that force and clearness that have given him rank as one of the ablest Masonic Jurists in America, and concludes that the law of the Grand Lodge is paramount and must be implicitly obeyed.

We doubt the wisdom of the statute of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi in this regard, and would strenuously oppose the enactment of a similar law in West Virginia; but upon the question as to whether the Grand Encampment can absolve a Knight Templar from his duty of obedience to the laws of the Grand Lodge within whose jurisdiction he resides, there can be but one answer—No. It can not. In this we concur with Sir Frederic Speed.

He has these pleasant words for our good and beloved Bro. Power :

Commander and Sir J. L. Power, of Jackson, was, for the twenty-fifth time, elected Grand Recorder. Our venerable brother is a power in Masonry in Mississippi, and long may it be ere the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery are bereft of his influence and deprived of his valuable service.

We clip the following, notwithstanding Bro. Ruckle's implied charge that we are not sincere, or rather consistent, in our claim that we don't care what people say of us :

Grand Commander George DeLap presents the report on "Fraternal Correspondence." It is very pleasant and interesting reading, and may be safely put into the hands of Sunday School scholars and tract distributors. In fact, there is evidence that Bro. DeLap has been "converted." That a light has shone upon him and that the great truths that "love conquers hate," and that "a soft answer turneth away wrath," are still evident in their operation. He is a noble fellow, working for good and for the triumph of the right. We would be glad to copy here both the introduction and the conclusion of his review, each alike admirable and well said, but we cannot. We hope to see Sir Geo. DeLap in Boston, and will be happy to stand by him in any little difficulties he may encounter in the corps of Correspondents.

Our baby might read it sometime, after we have gone home to our Father's House, in which there are many mansions, and it would be a comfort to her.

We are obliged to Bro. Long for his kind offer. Had we gone to Boston, we could and would have fought our own battles had any one attacked us, without fear or favor. If anybody is thirsting for our gore or hankering after our scalp, we do not know it. There are *many* good things in Bro. Long's review which we would like to clip, but West Virginia has already had her share of space. Bro. L. has been retired, at his own request, from this duty, which we much regret. We hope his successor, who is his own nominee for the place, will fill the role as perfectly and ably as Bro. Long has done during his three years' service.

May the benediction of our Common Lord and Master abide on him and his always.

Sir W. H. H. Holland is Grand Commander; Sir R. C. Bennington, Grand Recorder; Sir A. B. White, Correspondent.

## WASHINGTON—1895.

Eighth Annual at Seattle, June 7th and 8th. R.: E.: Sir George N. Alexander, Grand Commander; E.: Sir Yancey C. Blalock, Grand Recorder, seven Past Grand Commanders, twenty Grand Representatives, and the Representatives of eight Subordinate Commanderies were present.

The address is purely a business paper, and confined exclusively to local matters.

Five pages of it is taken up with correspondence between himself and the Grand Commander of New York, touching a case of "Invasion of Jurisdiction" by a New York Commandery. Said Commandery had constructed a full-fledged Templar out of an *expelled* R. A. M. of Washington! We are glad to say the matter was amicably settled and the culprit kicked out bodily from everything. He reports the Order in good shape and growing healthy.

The whisky, or intoxicant, feature of the following is a commentary on the innate cussedness of the Triennial performances which speaks for itself:

As requested by Grand Commandery, I sent to the Grand Master our endorsement of the resolution of Alabama Commandery regarding the unseemly use of the cross at the next Triennial Conclave at Boston, and, personally, I feel like endorsing R.: E.: Sir Charles W. Slick, Grand Commander of Indiana, who in his address says: "Let us urge our Grand Master to ask all Subordinate Commanderies to refrain entirely from dispensing intoxicating liquors at their respective headquarters at Boston."

This is the year for the Triennial Conclave at Boston, but owing to the continued stringency of the times and the embarrassing condition in which some of our Commanderies find themselves, I would recommend that if the finances of this Grand Commandery would justify the setting aside any money, or if money has been set aside for entertainment at the Triennial Conclave, that the same be used by this Grand Commandery for the relief of its subordinates in reducing per capita tax for this year at last.

Masonry is a progressive science and as nearly every Grand Lodge has laws against the use of intoxicating liquors, it seems fitting that we, as representatives of Christian Knighthood, should so conduct ourselves that men seeing our good works may "glorify our Father in heaven," and when our term of penitence has expired we may be admitted to the Asylum above.

All of which was approved by the Grand Commandery.

The proceedings are local. Total membership 585—a gain of only 2. Finances in good shape.

Correspondence is the work of Grand Recorder Blalock, and covers 100 pages. Clips from the transactions of 29 Templar legislatures, including Mississippi, for 1895, and is a good report barring the paucity of our brother Yancey therein.

However, as they do not seem to pay him for his work in the field, we would not blame him if he cut his report half in two and left out all original matter. A man may feel disposed to saw wood for charity's

sake, but when it comes to brain work, it is different, and should be paid for.

Bro. Blalock's review of Mississippi is full and fraternal. Referring to some squeal of ours in last report, he says:

Thanks for the sympathy, but as to the cold, we will say we have but few monkeys (real) out here, but it never gets cold enough to freeze the tails off those we have owing to a gentle breeze from the Pacific which we call the "chinook," which tempers the wind to the shorn monkey and makes winter summer even in January. We hope to meet Sir DeL. some day good natured, and have our shillalah in its case securely locked.

We beg to assure our brother that we are *always* good natured, hence he has no need of a shillalah for us. He gets up an admirable report barring the paucity of original matter therein.

R.: E.: Horace W. Tyler is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### WISCONSIN—1895.

Thirty-eighth Annual at Milwaukee, October 8th and 9th. Present: R.: E.: Eugene S. Elliott, Grand Commander; Sir John W. Laffin, Grand Recorder, three Past Grand Commanders, a big lot of Grand Representatives, and the Representatives of 26 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a good one. It opens as follows:

SIR KNIGHTS: It is with sincere pleasure that I bid you welcome and extend to you a knightly greeting. The Templar events since last we met in Grand Conclave have been numerous and important; the constituent Commanderies of this jurisdiction have been brought together as never before, so that now we come together with all the delicious *comraderie* that only old campaigners feel when they meet to recount the incidents of honorable careers. But we are not all here. The heavy hand of death has been laid upon some of our most eminent and knightly fraters; for them no bugle call shall sound until the archangel's trumpet shall summon them to that celestial Conclave where the Supreme Commander will preside.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the magnanimous dead, including P. G. C. Carpenter, who was one of the grandest minds the State has produced.

Under "Dispensations," we find this:

I regret to report another action on my part which my cooler judgment now regards an error.

In July last I received from the Recorder of Robert Macoy Commandery, No. 3, of Madison, a request, under the seal of the Commandery, for a dispensation authorizing that Commandery to hold a special election for the purpose of filling a vacancy caused by the removal of Eminent Sir Eugene A. Brown, its Eminent Commander, to California, where, it was stated, he had made his permanent residence. I declined to grant such dispensation under the provision of Sub section 1, of Section 19 of the Statutes, which reads: "A vacancy may occur by expiration of term, by death or by expulsion. The removal from the jurisdiction does not create a vacancy."

I was subsequently called upon by the Recorder of Robert Macoy Commandery, and strongly urged to rescind my refusal to grant a dispensation. It was urged upon me that the condition of the Commandery was such that it would suffer great loss unless the vacancy was immediately filled. Moved by the representations made to me, and by the provision of Section 19 upon page 231 of the Statutes, to the effect that "Whenever a Grand Commander or an Eminent Commander changes his residence to a place beyond the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery, he thereby vacates his office, and can exercise its powers no longer," I yielded and granted the dispensation. I believe this was error, and that the correct course would have been to insist that the Generalissimo of that Commandery should discharge the duties of the Commander until the expiration of the term. I desire to point out, however, the antagonism existing between these two sections of the Statutes which stand in close relation to each other.

One reads: "The removal from the jurisdiction does not create a vacancy." The other reads: "Whenever a Grand Commander or an Eminent Commander changes his residence he thereby vacates his office, and can exercise its powers no longer." These sections are certainly antagonistic, and should be so modified as to state the law as it is intended to exist.

We think he had no cause for regret, except for his delay in granting the dispensation.

We note the fact that notwithstanding an appropriation of \$1,500 as expenses at Boston a debt of \$875 was contracted, and would like to inquire, "if in order," what all this money was spent *for*? In the absence of this information, we assume that no part of it went for hotel expenses outside of the suite of rooms used as Headquarters, and, per consequence, the liquid refreshments was the principal item of expense. If our assumption is correct, the unbounded stomachs of our Wisconsin fraters, for this sort of thing, is apparent. Their ability to reconcile the intemperate use and lavish distribution of "liquid damnation," during the session of the governing body of an institution founded upon the Christian religion and the practice of Christian virtues, is not so apparent. But what is the use of talking! They *all* do it—that is, those who have the money to pay for it.

The proceedings are local. Total membership 2,718—a gain of 49, as the Grand Recorder has it, but 82 as we make it deducting net decrease 13 from increase—213.

The principal dish in the bill of fare before us, is the fourteenth annual report on Correspondence of the irrepressible Swain, which is all wool and warranted to wash.

His "opening chorus" is characteristic and as follows:

As we remarked in closing, last year, our thirteenth annual report is likely to prove long, possibly, for the patience of our readers, on account of the shortness of our last. Still, they must remember that thirteen is an unlucky number, and possess their souls in patience. We once knew a man who ascribed his defeat at Whist to the fact that he played with thirteen cards.

Under California, and touching Grand Lodge supremacy, he discourses thusly:

Suppose the Grand Lodge of California should adopt a rule that a brother who has lost a leg after receiving the degrees, is to be treated as a suspended Mason. Would that rule be binding on the Commandery? The report mentioned above cannot apply to the California law, because it is not a question of what *bodies* are to be recognized as Masonic, but whether a Grand Lodge can declare a brother suspended without giving him a trial or a hearing, or without his having committed any Masonic offense. How far is the Grand Encampment bound to recognize a Grand Lodge law, which is in violation of every Masonic principle which suspends a man without giving him a chance to defend himself?

All of which is too thin!

Under Iowa, we find this, which meets our unqualified endorsement:

We notice from the newspapers that our friend Babb is still on the downward track. How difficult it is to stop when one commences to go down hill. Babb was at the summit as an able and graceful writer of Correspondence reports. He gently declined into a Grand Commander, and now we see has taken a sudden and violent descent into a candidate for Governor. If he will agree to stop there we will wish him success.

When a man gets into modern politics, he is about as low as he can get and be recognized as a gentleman.

Under Massachusetts, we find the following on the same old subject—that law report:

We have a high respect for Speed's legal acumen, but in the above we are obliged to differ with both Speed and Rugg. Lodge discipline affects Templar standing, but a Grand Lodge law fixing the status of a non-affiliate is not Lodge discipline. A Grand or Subordinate Lodge can deprive the non-affiliate of all Lodge privileges, and that is the extent of their power, and saying he is a suspended or expelled Mason does not make him one, because no Mason can be expelled without due trial and having his "day in court." If a Subordinate Lodge should prefer charges against a non-affiliate, and convict him, *after a hearing*, of unmasonic conduct in remaining unaffiliated, and expel him, we would not believe he was guilty of unmasonic conduct, but we would be obliged to admit that his Templar standing was affected; but a general law that he is suspended or expelled, when he has had hearing, while it, of course debarred from Lodge privileges, cannot affect his Templar standing, because he has never been convicted.

Bro. William is simply looking at the "surface indications." If he would dig down to "bed-rock" of the matter he would agree with Fred.

Bro. Swain devotes much space to Mississippi, fully digesting the minutes at Holly Springs and West Point. He quotes most of the Law report, remarking prefatorily, that it is able but unsound, and adding:

We do not think his construction of the law of his own Grand Lodge is correct, because the provision cited seems to us to be merely intended to show that the non-affiliate has no Lodge rights or privileges, and, consequently, is in the position of a profane so far as Lodges are concerned. It does not, and can not, deprive him of his standing as a Mason. If it did, it would be utterly unmasonic, in violation, not only

of justice, but of the Masonic principle that no brother can be deprived of his rights without a trial or hearing. No one of us has a right to hold Masonic intercourse with a suspended or expelled Mason, but there the prohibition ends. There is a law even higher than Grand Lodges, which gives every brother his "day in court." We have all entered into a solemn compact with every brother who has passed through our ceremonial, which is binding until judgment, after due trial has been passed, declaring Masonic rights forfeited, for a Masonic offense. We have yet to learn that non-affiliation can be called a Masonic offense.

The mistake Bro. S. makes is in assuming that non-affiliates have *rights*! They are drones in the Masonic hive, and should be treated accordingly. He quotes our remarks in regard to the party that wanted the orders conferred upon him in *extremis*, and says:

We were a little amused ourself about the idea of a man *in extremis* wanting the orders; but then, it is well to remember that the celebrated Squibob, after his death, had come to life again, because he had forgotten his last words.

He also indulges in the following:

We are inclined to think DeLap does not fully agree with Speed on this question, because in his review of a California decision, somewhat similar, he says, "this may be good law in California, but it ain't good sense."

DeLap seems to us to be growing more mellow towards the sins of others, as he grows older. But we don't think he quite appreciates the feeling towards each other, of those who fought during the late unpleasantness. We like to meet and talk over the scenes of the war, with our comrades, and we like to see those who wore the gray do the same thing. And we like to meet them also, and to hear their reminiscences. And we like to feel, as we did last month in Louisville, while listening to the words of eloquence from Watterson, that we are now one, undivided people.

To the first paragraph, we respond—DeLap *does* agree with Speed. He did not realize exactly what was the matter when he made the remark quoted. Went off half cocked, so to speak.

To the second, we beg to dissent, *i. e.*, all but the first sentence. DeLap does appreciate the feeling towards each other by the soldiers of the two sides, and he hopes and prays, that the feeling of fraternity and kinship that exists between the respectable element of the two sides, may grow and expand. It is the camp-follower, sutler and political element of the two sections that we would like to see hung. They are unfit to live in an united country.

We are glad William had a nice time at Louisville. If he circulated with Watterson much he was certainly drunk, if not by actual drinking, by absorption.

The report covers 118 pages and contains a thousand good things. It cost the Grand Commandery of Wisconsin \$5,730 for the Boston blow-out. They paid Swain \$50 for his report!! This reminds us of the fishing party that took along a barrel of whisky and one loaf of bread!

George H. Hopper is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

## CONCLUSION.

Having finished our work, we submit it for your inspection. It has been, as usual, performed under the incubus of ill health and whatever of imperfections you may find in it, and they will be few, no doubt, must be charged to this account. As was the case last year, there is not a ripple of excitement or a chance for a scrimmage, except along the line of the status of non-affiliated Master Masons in regard to their standing in the Commandery. The action of California, and our own, in this matter are variously commented upon by correspondents, and these comments, *pro* and *con*, we have, to a large extent, incorporated into this report. There are some vigorous kicks by the adorers of the central exorcism, against our action, but like all emanations from this source, they don't amount to much, when sifted down and analyzed. It is a well established fact, that when the superstructure kicks away the foundation, the whole will come down and somebody will get hurt. If it is the fellows in the, alleged, upper stories, the loss will not be very great. On this subject we note the fact that we have some of the ablest minds and best men, of the Order, on our side. This is pleasant, while the bare fact cuts no figure in so far as affecting our position, a position which we have assumed because we think it correct, and not because it is the fashionable one.

The matter should have had the earnest and sensible attention of the Grand Encampment, at Boston, but it did not, as that concern very seldom indulges in the luxury of doing things practical and sensible, hence nothing was done, and the Statutes of that body are still in conflict with those of our Grand Lodge and common sense, and are likely to remain indefinitely.

It is pleasant to note the fact that peace, harmony and prosperity prevail throughout the land in our institution. A steady, and we trust, healthy growth is apparent and we hope will long continue.

Some of the pamphlets are yet behind, which we regret, both on their account and ours, but this cannot be helped now, as the time to shut up shop and quit, has come.

With an earnest prayer for the Divine blessing to rest upon you, and upon Templars everywhere, I remain,

Courteously yours,

E. G. DELAP, Committee.



## ADDRESS OF GRAND RECORDERS.

Alabama.....	H. CLAY ARMSTRONG.....	Montgomery.
Arizona.....	GEO. J. RUNKEUGE.....	Tucson.
Arkansas.....	JAS. A. HENRY.....	Little Rock.
California.....	THOS. H. CASWELL.....	San Francisco.
Canada, Sov. Great Priory.....	GEO. W. JOHNSON.....	Yarmouth, N. S.
Colorado.....	ED. C. PARMELEE.....	Denver.
Connecticut.....	ELI C. BIRDSEY.....	Hartford.
District of Columbia.....	I. LARUE JOHNSON.....	Washington.
England and Wales.....	JOHN C. HAY.....	London, W. C.
Florida.....	WM. A. MCLEAN.....	Jacksonville
Georgia.....	SAMUEL P. HAMILTON.....	Savannah.
Illinois.....	GILBERT W. BARNARD.....	Chicago.
Indiana.....	WM. H. SMYTHE.....	Indianapolis.
Indian Territory.....	LEO. E. BENNETT.....	Muskogee.
Iowa.....	ALF. WINGATE.....	Des Moines.
Ireland.....	JOHN A. BAKER.....	Dublin.
Kansas.....	A. M. CALLAHAN.....	Topeka.
Kentucky.....	LORENZO D. CRONINGER.....	Covington.
Louisiana.....	RICHARD LAMBERT.....	New Orleans.
Maine.....	STEPHEN BERRY.....	Portland.
Maryland.....	JOHN H. MILLER.....	Baltimore.
Massachusetts & Rhode Island.....	BENJ. W. ROWELL.....	Lynn.
Michigan.....	JOHN A. GEROW.....	Detroit.
Minnesota.....	THOS. MONTGOMERY.....	St. Paul.
Mississippi.....	J. L. POWER.....	Jackson.
Missouri.....	WM. H. MAYO.....	St. Louis.
Montana.....	CORNELIUS HEDGES.....	Helena.
Nebraska.....	WM. R. BOWEN.....	Omaha.
New Hampshire.....	GEO. P. CLEAVES.....	Concord.
New Jersey.....	CHAS. BECHTEL.....	Trenton.
New York.....	JOHN F. SHAFER.....	Albany.
North Carolina.....	HORACE H. MUNSON.....	Wilmington.
North Dakota.....	FRANK J. THOMPSON.....	Fargo.
Ohio.....	JOHN N. BELL.....	Dayton.
Oregon.....	JAS. F. ROBINSON.....	Eugene.
Pennsylvania.....	MONT H. SMITH.....	Philadelphia.
Prince Edward Island.....	B. WILSON HIGGS.....	Charlottetown.
Scotland.....	LINDSEY MACKERSEY.....	Edinburg.
South Dakota.....	GEO. A. PETTIGREW.....	Flandreau.
Tennessee.....	WILBUR F. FOSTER.....	Nashville.
Texas.....	ROBERT BREWSTER.....	Houston.
Vermont.....	WARREN G. REYNOLDS.....	Burlington.
Victoria, Great Priory.....	CHARLES CHAPMAN.....	Melbourne, Aus.
Virginia.....	JAMES B. BLANKS.....	Petersburg.
Washington.....	YANCY C. BLALOCK.....	Walla Walla.
Wyoming.....	JOHN C. BAIRD.....	Cheyenne.
West Virginia.....	R. C. DUNNINGTON.....	Fairmount.
Wisconsin.....	JOHN W. LAFLIN.....	Milwaukee.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT—R. E. Sir LaRue Thomas, Grand Master, Maysville, Ky.; Wm. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder, St. Louis, Mo. Next Triennial Grand Conclave, at Pittsburg, second Tuesday in October, 1898.

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMISSIONED TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

<i>Grand Commandery.</i>	<i>Representative - Postoffice.</i>	<i>Date of Commission.</i>
Alabama .....	Rev. N. G. Augustus, Crawford.....	March 16, 1893.
Arkansas .....	Rev. Wm. P. Browne.....	January 15, 1890.
California .....	Phineas M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.....	March 27, 1890.
Colorado.....	T. G. Birchett, M. D., Vicksburg.....	January 24, 1890.
Connecticut.....	John A. Dicks, Natchez.....	December —, 1892.
Georgia.....	J. C. French, P.G.C., Natchez.....	December 7, 1892.
Illinois.....	Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Vicksburg.....	January 22, 1890.
Indiana.....	Frank H. Foote, Port Gibson.....	
Iowa.....	Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg.....	December 31, 1889.
Kansas.....	Wm. G. Benbrook, P.G.C., Natchez.....	July 14, 1896.
Kentucky.....	John H. Gordon, P.G.C., Port Gibson.....	January 1, 1890.
Louisiana .....	E. Geo. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez.....	1892.
Maine.....	C. L. Lincoln, Columbus.....	October 16, 1895.
Maryland .....		
Massachusetts and		
Rhode Island.....	B. A. Vaughan, P.G.C., Columbus.....	December 10, 1895.
Minnesota.....	H. M. Romberger, P.G.C., Winona.....	November 12, 1895.
Missouri.....	J. L. Power, Jackson.....	February 4, 1890.
Montana.....		
Nebraska .....	Emmet N. Thomas, Greenville.....	April 12, 1894.
New Hampshire.....	Gid. W. Cox, P.G.C., Columbus.....	
New Jersey.....		
New York.....	Enoch Geo. DeLap, Natchez.....	January 15, 1890.
North Carolina.....		
North Dakota.....	John D. Miles, Vicksburg.....	
Ohio.....	Rev. John A. B. Jones, Canton.....	April, 10, 1893.
Oregon.....		
Pennsylvania .....	Chas. T. Chamberlain, Natchez.....	March 14, 1893.
South Dakota.....	Wm. G. Sykes, Aberdeen.....	November 27, 1895.
Tennessee.....	Wm. Starling, Greenville.....	January 21, 1890.
Texas .....	G. J. Bahin, Natchez.....	July 14, 1896.
Vermont.....	J. J. Hayes, P.G.C., Vicksburg.....	November 15, 1895.
Virginia.....		
Washington.....		
West Virginia.....	W. A. Bodenhamer, P.G.C., Okolona.....	
Wisconsin.....	John A. Dicks, Natchez.....	November 20, 1895.
Wyoming.....		

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

COMMISSIONED BY THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPL

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Alabama .....	Peter Zingster, Birmingham.....	January 18, 1893.
Arkansas.....	George P. Taylor, Forest City.....	January 18, 1890.
California .....	Thos. H. Caswell, San Francisco.....	December 23, 1890.
Colorado .....	Alfonso A. Burnard, Leadville.....	January 2, 1890.
Connecticut.....	Eli C. Birdsey, Meriden .....	Nove'ber 28, 1891.
Georgia .....	Felix Corput, Macon .....	Nove'ber 28, 1892.
Illinois.....	James C. Hawley, Dixon .....	Nove'ber 20, 1895.
Indiana .....	John W. Corput, Terra Haute .....	Nove'ber 28, 1889.
Iowa .....	James Morton, Cedar Rapids .....	Nove'ber 28, 1892.
Kansas .....	John M. Price, Atchison.....	January 28, 1890.
Kentucky .....	Reginald Heber Thompson, Louisville.....	June 18, 1892.
Louisiana .....	Joseph H. DeGrange, New Orleans...	
Maine.....	J. H. Drummond, Portland.....	December 23, 1889.
Maryland .....	Geo. Cook, Baltimore.....	April 9, 1891.
Massachusetts and		
Rhode Island ...	Benjamin Rowell, Lynn.....	December 16, 1892.
Minnesota.....	Charles H. Mox, Crookston.....	June 28, 1893.
Missouri .....	Rev. Alex. M. Dockery, St. Louis.....	February 5, 1890.
Montana .....	E. D. Aiken, Bute City .....	July 10, 1881.
Nebraska.....	Louis F. de Lorernier, Desha.....	
New Hampshire...	Rev. Daniel C. Roberts, Concord.....	August 10, 1891.
New Jersey .....	Thomas Godson, Newark.....	December 23, 1889.
New York.....	John Anderson, Binghamton.....	March 25, 1892.
North Carolina...	J. W. Hunter, Winston.....	December 20, 1889.
North Dakota .....	James A. Jenks, Grand Forks .....	June 8, 1891.
Ohio .....	William L. Beuchner, Youngstown..	March 11, 1893.
Oregon .....		
Pennsylvania.....	James H. Coddling, Towanda.....	July 10, 1891.
South Dakota.....	Levi B. French, Yankton.....	May 8, 1893.
Tennessee .....	Morton B. Howell, Nashville .....	January 21, 1890.
Texas .....	George Hotchkiss, Dallas.....	
Vermont.....	George W. Squier, Swanton .....	January 18, 1889.
Virginia.....	John T. Parham, Petersburg... ..	August 5, 1889.
Washington.....	Walter J. Thompson, Tacoma .....	May 24, 1889.
West Virginia.....	Thomas M. Durrah, Wheeling.....	Nove'ber 26, 1892.
Wisconsin .....	N. C. Giffin, Fon du Lac.....	
Wyoming .....	John C. Davis, Rawlins.....	April 5, 1893.

# GRAND COMMANDERS,

FROM ORGANIZATION 1857 TO 1896.

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WILLIAM H. STEVENS.....1857 to 1858—Died October 13, 1866.  
GEORGE P. CRUMP.....1858 to 1859—Died 1860.  
GILES M. HILLYER.....1859 to 1860—Died April 23, 1871.  
HARVEY W. WALTER.....1860 to 1861—Died September 19, 1878.  
BENJ. S. TAPPAN.....1861 to 1866—Died March 1, 1866.  
EDWARD LEA.....1866 to 1867—Died 1878.  
CHRISTOPHER A. MANLOVE.....1867 to 1868—Died December 29, 1878.  
FLEET C. MERCER.....1869 to 1870—Died January 26, 1885.  
JOHN K. FULSON, Water Valley..1869 to 1870  
CHARLES T. BOND .....1870 to 1871—Died December 14, 1872.  
WILLIAM S. PATTON.....1871 to 1872—Died July 5, 1889.  
E. GEO. DELAP, Natchez.....1872 to 1873  
E. T. HENRY.....1873 to 1874—Died April 10, 1881.  
PHINEAS M. SAVERY, Tupelo.....1874 to 1875  
GID W. COX, Columbus.....1875 to 1876  
OLIVER CLIFTON, Jackson.....1876 to 1877  
WILLIAM A. FAIRCHILD.....1877 to 1878—Died September 20, 1878.  
WILLIAM G. PAXTON, Vicksburg..1878 to 1879  
CHARLES M. ERWIN.....1879 to 1880  
WILLIAM G. BENBROOK, Natchez...1880 to 1881  
WILLIAM FRENCH.....1881 to 1882—Died April 28, 1884.  
JAS. T. MEADE, Birmingham, Ala.1882 to 1883  
H. M. ROMBERGER, Winona.....1883 to 1884  
W. P. TOWLER .....1884 to 1885—Died March 30, 1893.  
JOHN G. GORDON, Port Gibson....1885 to 1886  
B. A. VAUGHAN, M. D., Columbus..1886 to 1887  
N. S. WALKER, Port Gibson.....1887 to 1888—Died August 12, 1895.  
FREDERIC SPEED, Vicksburg.....1888 to 1890  
JAS. J. HAYES, Vicksburg.....1890 to 1891  
J. E. LEIGH.....1891 to 1892—Died November 7, 1891.  
W. A. BODENHAMER, Okolona.....1892 to 1893  
S. W. FERGUSON, Greenville.....1893 to 1894  
J. C. FRENCH, M. D., Natchez.....1894 to 1895  
F. P. JINKINS, Aberdeen.....1895 to 1896  
W. M. BUCHANAN.....1896

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## HONORARY PAST GRAND COMMANDERS.

J. L. POWER, P.E.C.....Mississippi, No. 1—elected 1891.  
JOHN D. MILES, P.E.C.....Magnolia, No. 2—elected 1892.  
GUS J. BAHIN.....Rosalie, No. 5—elected 1896.

## **FEEES FOR THE ORDERS**

Shall not be less than forty dollars, but each Commandery may charge a higher sum. Fees cannot be remitted, directly or indirectly. Recorder is responsible for their payment.

## **ANNUAL DUES.**

Amount is fixed by each Commandery, payable on or before stated Conclave in December. Two years' indebtedness forfeits membership, and the member can only be reinstated by paying up all arrearages; but "Commandery may excuse the payment of dues under peculiar circumstances."

## **DUES TO GRAND COMMANDERY.**

One dollar for each member on the roll December 27. Five dollars for each member Knighted during year. One dollar for each member reinstated for the number of years Commandery requires him to pay arrearages.

## **JURISDICTION OF COMMANDERIES.**

Section 3, General Regulations, relating to the jurisdiction of Commanderies over applicants for the Orders was repealed in 1886, *vide* page 12, proceedings, and all restrictions upon jurisdiction over candidates in the State of Mississippi "abolished." It is entirely competent for a Commandery in the extreme southern limits of the State to entertain a petition from a candidate residing in the most northern; in other words, applicants may go where they please for the Orders, so long as they do not go outside of the State.

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**LODGES**—(A. F. and A. M.) hold Communications. Add 4,000 to 1896—A. L. (*Anno Lucis*—Year of Light) 5896.

**CHAPTERS**—(R. A. M.) hold Convocations. Add 530 to 1896—A. I. (*Anno Inventionis*—Year of Discovery) 2426.

**COUNCILS**—(R. & S. M.) hold Assemblies. Add 1,000 to 1896—A. Dep. (*Anno Dispositionis*—Year of Deposit) 2896.

**COMMANDERIES**—(K. T.) hold Conclaves. Subtract 1118 from 1896. A. O. (*Anno Ordinis*—Year of the Order) 778.

**CONSISTORIES**—A. and A. S. R.) hold Rendezvous. Add 3760 to 1896—A. M. 5656.



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## —\* Grand Officers, \*—

1896-'97.

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SIR J. M. BUCHANAN, M. D.	Meridian	Grand Commander.
SIR JAMES T. HARRISON	Columbus	Deputy Grand Command'r.
SIR WILLIAM STARLING	Greenville	Grand Generalissimo.
SIR JOHN S. COBB	Verona	Grand Captain General.
REV. SIR JOHN A. B. JONES	Canton	Grand Prelate.
SIR J. W. KEYES	Tupelo	Grand Senior Warden.
SIR O. L. MCKAY	Aberdeen	Grand Junior Warden
SIR GUS J. BAHIN	Natchez	Grand Treasurer.
SIR J. L. POWER	Jackson	Grand Recorder.
SIR J. F. DIXON	Natchez	Grand Standard Bearer.
SIR GEO. C. HOSKINS	Brookhaven	Grand Sword Bearer.
SIR GEO. C. MYERS	Holly Springs	Grand Warden.
SIR R. B. HARRISON	Biloxi	Grand Captain of Guard.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES.

TEMPLAR LAW.—Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Vicksburg; Wm. G. Paxton, P. G. C., Vicksburg; P. M. Savery, P. G. C., Tupelo.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE.—E. G. DeLap, P. G. C., Natchez.

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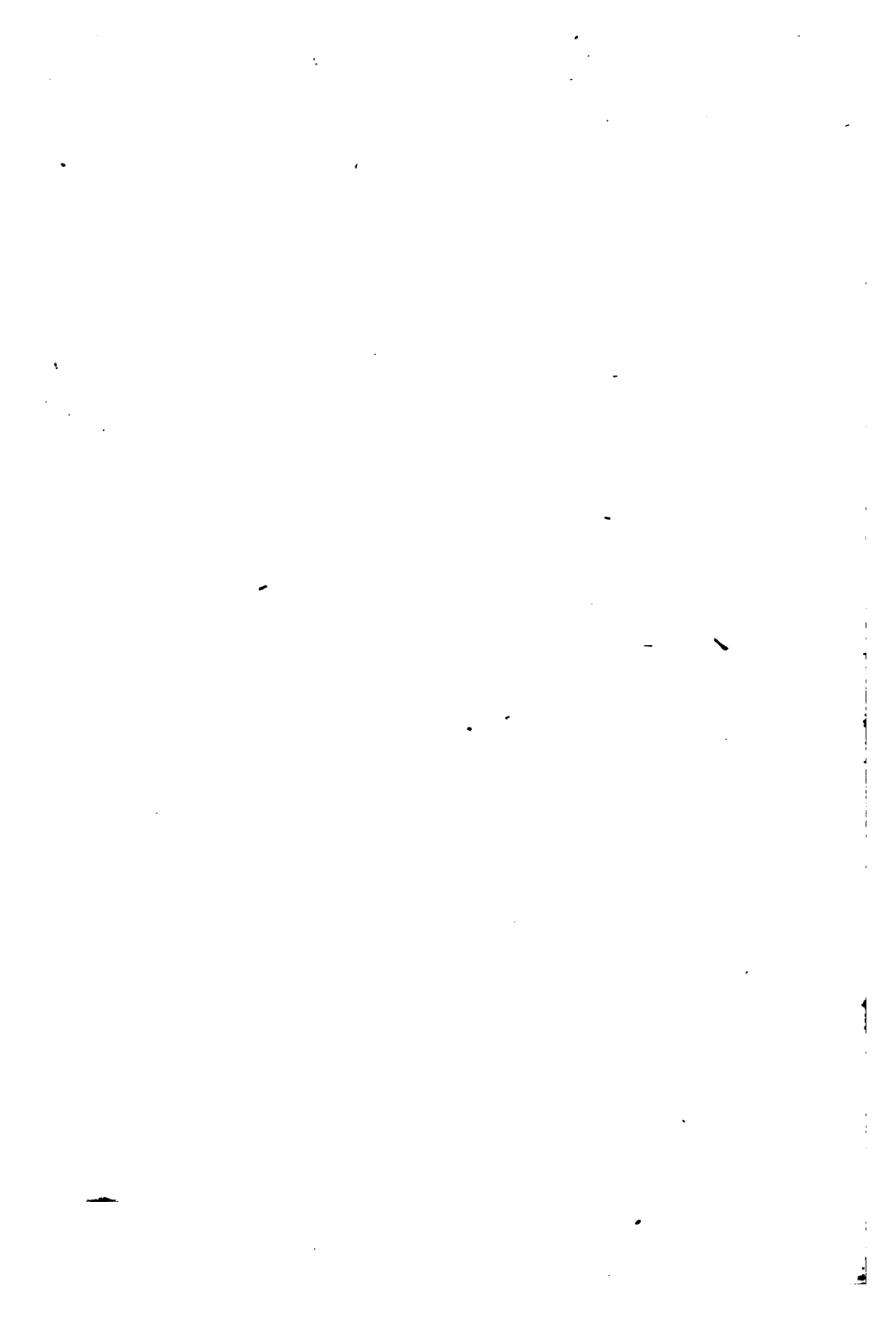
The Thirty-seventh Annual Conclave will be held in Biloxi, on Tuesday, February 9th, 1897, at 10 o'clock, a. m.



**Thirty-Seventh**  
: Annual : Conclave :



1897.







*Mr. Buchanan, G.C.*

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

—OF THE—

# GRAND COMMANDERY

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,

—OF THE—

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

—HELD AT—

BILOXI, FEBRUARY 10-11,

1897.



VICKSBURG, MISS.:  
VICKSBURG PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

1897.



*Mr. Buchanan, N.Y.C.*



THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
(GRAND) COMMANDER  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,

--- OF THE ---  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

--- HELD AT ---  
BILOXI, FEBRUARY 10-11,

1897.



VICKSBURG, MISS.  
VICKSBURG PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.  
1897



*J. M. Buchanan, G.C.*

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

—OF THE—

# GRAND COMMANDERY

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,

—OF THE—

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

—HELD AT—



BILOXI, FEBRUARY 10-11,

1897.



VICKSBURG, MISS.:  
VICKSBURG PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

1897.


 **THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE**   
Will be held in Water Valley, on Tuesday, February  
8th, 1898, commencing at 10 o'clock A. M.

# GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

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## THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE.

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 THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI assembled in its Thirty-Seventh Annual Conclave in the Asylum of The Coast Commandery, U. D., in the City of Biloxi, on Tuesday, February 9th, A. D. 1897, A. O. 779, at 4:30 P. M., there being present the following

### GRAND OFFICERS.

SIR J. M. BUCHANAN.....R. E. Grand Commander.  
SIR JAMES T. HARRISON.....V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.  
SIR WILLIAM STARLING.....Grand Generalissimo.  
SIR JOHN S. COBB.....Grand Captain General.  
SIR JOHN A. B. JONES.....Grand Prelate.  
SIR HARRY T. HOWARD.....as Grand Senior Warden.  
SIR OLIVER L. MCKAY.....Grand Junior Warden.  
SIR GUS J. BAHIN.....Grand Treasurer.  
SIR J. L. POWER.....Grand Recorder.  
SIR J. F. DIXON.....Grand Standard Bearer.  
SIR GEO. C. HOSKINS.....Grand Sword Bearer.  
SIR GEO. C. MYERS.....Grand Warder.  
SIR R. B. HARRISON.....Grand Captain of the Guard.  
ABSENT—SIR J. W. KEYES, Grand Senior Warden.

### PAST GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

R. E. E. GEO. DELAP.....Past Grand Commander.  
R. E. PHINEAS M. SAVERY.....Past Grand Commander.  
R. E. FREDERIC SPEED.....Past Grand Commander.  
R. E. B. A. VAUGHAN.....Past Grand Commander.  
R. E. FRANK P. JINKINS.....Past Grand Commander.

### GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

Grand Commandery of California.....P. M. SAVERY, P. G. C.  
Grand Commandery of Illinois.....WM. G. PAXTON, P. G. C.  
Grand Commandery of Iowa.....FREDERIC SPEED, P. G. C.

Grand Commandery of Louisiana.....	E. G. DeLAP, P. G. C.
Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.....	B. A. VAUGHAN, P. G. C.
Grand Commandery of Missouri.....	J. L. POWER.
Grand Commandery of Nebraska.....	E. N. THOMAS.
Grand Commandery of New York.....	E. G. DeLAP, P. G. C.
Grand Commandery of Ohio.....	Jno. A. B. JONES.
Grand Commandery of South Dakota.....	WM. G. SYKES.
Grand Commandery of Tennessee.....	WILLIAM STARLING.
Grand Commandery of Texas.....	GUS J. BAHIN.

The Grand Recorder having announced a constitutional quorum present, the Grand Commandery was opened in Solemn and Knightly Form—the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir Jno. A. B. Jones, invoking the Divine Blessing.

A brief, but very cordial address of welcome, was made by Rev. Sir Ebenezer Thompson, in behalf of The Coast Commandery, the Craft and citizens generally of Biloxi, to which the Grand Commander, R. E. Sir James M. Buchanan, made appropriate response.

R. E. Sir Robert L. Douglas, Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Alabama; Sir H. H. Matthews, Deputy Grand Commander, and Sir C. R. Wescott, Grand Warder of that Grand Jurisdiction, were announced as desiring to visit the Grand Commandery; whereupon the R. E. Grand Commander appointed Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed and Grand Recorder J. L. Power to receive and introduce the distinguished visitors. On entering the Asylum, they were received and greeted with the Grand Honors, and with words of cordial welcome by the R. E. Grand Commander. Grand Commander Douglass made a very appropriate response.

The R. E. Grand Commander then delivered his address as follows:

## ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDER.

BILOXI, MISS., February 9th, 1897.

SIR KNIGHTS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI:

It seems but a little while ago since we last met in Annual Conclave, and now as we come together again to strengthen and renew our fraternal ties, it gives me peculiar pleasure to welcome you, especially as I see before me all the old familiar faces that are wont to smile upon us in our annual assemblies.

During the year just closed, the blessings of Almighty God have been upon us, and we have had many occasions for thanksgiving. Our nation has not only been at peace with the whole world, but has inaugurated measures, which, when fully developed, will hasten the advent of that great day, "when nations shall not lift up the sword against nations,

neither shall they learn war any more." There have been times of peril and anxiety, but we have safely passed through them, and to-day, good government, peace and prosperity abounds throughout the land. The whole country has been free from epidemics and pestilence; no severe affliction has visited our jurisdiction; death has not invaded the ranks of this Grand Commandery, and the deaths in Subordinates are less than the average for several years.

But while we return thanks for these mercies to us, let us not be unmindful of the fact that some of our Sister Jurisdictions have been called upon to mourn the loss of valued and dear fraters. To all such, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolence. Notice of the following honored ones "who have gone to join those who have gone before," have been received:

R. E. Sir Daniel Smith, P. G. C., Alabama, died May 25th, 1896.

E. Sir Fred. Kramer, Grand Treasurer, Arkansas, died September 8th, 1896.

R. E. Sir William Story, P. G. C., Connecticut, died March 2d, 1896.

R. E. Sir Allen I. Curtis, P. G. C., Georgia, died March 17th, 1896.

R. E. Sir Vincent L. Hurlbut, P. G. C., Illinois, died July 24th, 1896.

R. E. Sir Erville B. Bishop, P. G. C., Indiana, died April 19th, 1896.

R. E. Sir Owen A. Bassett, P. G. C., Kansas, died July 12th, 1896.

V. E. Sir E. M. Nadal, P. D. G. C., North Carolina, died April 14th, 1896.

R. E. Sir Robert Dingwell, G. C., New Jersey, died August 6th, 1896.

R. E. Sir Edward H. Turner, P. G. C., Pennsylvania, died July 12th, 1896.

R. E. Sir James M. Anderson, P. G. C., Tennessee, died July 14th, 1896.

R. E. Sir Robert Black, P. G. C., New York, died December 12th, 1896.

E. Sir Robert Brewster, Grand Recorder, Texas, died July 25th, 1896.

It is in appreciation of devotion of a life-work to Masonry, that special mention is made of Sir Knight Robert Brewster, who served the Grand Commandery of Texas as Grand Recorder for thirty-three years. He was eighty-four years old, and "died in the full discharge of the trust that had been confided to him for one-third of a century." Sir Brewster was the oldest Grand Recorder in the world, and his death leaves Sir Knight Power of our jurisdiction at the head of the list.

Sir Power has served the Grand Commandery of Mississippi as Grand Recorder, twenty-six years, and he now has the distinction of being the oldest Grand Recorder, in years of service, in the world. What goodly records: when shall we see the like of them again? But we shall

see it, as long as it may please the Grand Recorder of the Universe, our Heavenly Father, to extend to this jurisdiction the blessing of a continuation of the useful life of our good brother; for as long as his good right arm can do the bidding of his pure and unselfish heart, will the good work of Masonry be exemplified among us, and when at last he is called "from labor to refreshment," the shout of angels will welcome him among them. Then, as a crowning act of ours, let the fraternity erect a monument to his memory, of pure white marble, emblematic of his life and character, pure and firm, as a testimonial of our appreciation of his noble "deeds of charity and pure beneficence."

Notwithstanding the fact that we have just passed through the throes of the greatest political contest ever made in this country, and every business was paralyzed for the time, I am pleased to report that Templarism has prospered in Mississippi. It is true the Returns from Subordinate Commanderies do not indicate very active work, yet we can congratulate ourselves on the addition of two Commanderies. One new Commandery has been instituted, U. D., and Lexington No. 3 has been re-organized.

My duties have been such as to prevent me from making any visits to Subordinate Commanderies, excepting my own, Cyrene No. 9, but I feel sure that all has been well with them. If any differences occurred they were adjusted at home, for no matters of law or discipline have been referred to us.

Owing to the fact that the Order of Malta was not conferred in full form in this jurisdiction, but communicated in the short form as found in the old Knight Templar Ritual, some Commanderies were without a Malta Ritual, and when the old Rituals of the Knights Templar were returned, these Commanderies were unable to confer the Order of Malta. Realizing that the Order of Knights Templar included that of Knight of Malta, I instructed the Grand Recorder to procure new Rituals of the Order of Malta, and send one to each Commander with the instruction that he should confer the Order on all Knights Templar who had not received it.

For satisfactory reasons I have granted the following special dispensations:

April 14th, to Cyrene No. 9, to ballot at a special meeting, upon the application of a Companion, which had been received at a regular Conclave.

November 11th, to Cyrene No. 9, to ballot upon the application of a Companion within the prescribed time.

January 23d, to Coast Commandery, U. D., to ballot upon the applications of two Companions at a special meeting. The petitions were received at a regular Conclave.

January 29th, to Magnolia No. 2, to ballot upon the petition of a Sir Knight for affiliation within less than four weeks.

In all instances the applications for dispensations were in proper



form and under seal of the Commandery, and I had reason to believe that the statute governing the same had been complied with.

On April 21st, I issued, upon the recommendation of Cyrene Commandery No. 9, a dispensation to Sir Eben Thompson, E. C., J. H. Neville, Gen'o, A. J. Bowers, C. G., and nine other Sir Knights residing on the Gulf Coast to form and open a Commandery at Biloxi, Miss., to be known as Coast Commandery.

By request of the Eminent Commander, accompanied by Sir J. H. Wright, E. C., Cyrene No. 9, and James E. Seavy, P. E. C., St. Elmo No. 18, I visited Biloxi on May 7th, for the purpose of instituting the new Commandery.

The petitioners assembled in the Asylum at 4 p. m., and Coast Commandery was then formed and duly opened.

The Commandery by a unanimous vote requested the Grand Commander to grant a special dispensation to ballot upon the application of eighteen Companions whose petitions were in the hands of the Eminent Commander. This request coming in proper form was granted, and after the election of the Companions, we commenced the work of conferring the orders upon them. Some of the members had perfected themselves in the Ritual, and rendered us valuable assistance. We were also aided by V. E. Robert Douglas, D. G. C. of Alabama, and other visiting Sir Knights of Mobile.

The paraphernalia and robes necessary for doing the work had been procured and were complete. During the whole time both members and postulants manifested a deep interest, and one very pleasing feature of the ceremonies, was that each postulant was invested with his own uniform in being knighted. Since the first meeting two members have been added to their roster, and to-day they can boast of twenty-nine as good and loyal Sir Knights as can be found anywhere, and from my personal acquaintance with the members, as fraters of intelligence, spirit, and hospitality, I predict a brilliant future for Coast Commandery No. 19, and recommend that a charter be granted them.

On March 10th, I received a communication from the Sir Knights residing in Lexington, requesting that I grant them permission to reorganize Lexington Commandery No. 3, which had suspended work, but had not surrendered its charter. Upon the advice of Grand Recorder Power, the petitioners were authorized to open the Commandery and resume work; this however was delayed until October. Recent letters from the Eminent Commander inform me that they have twelve members, and six petitions for the orders, and as there is much good Templar material in that section, the Sir Knights who have the matter in charge expect to build up a strong Commandery. I submit this and ask your approval.

On October 19th, 1896, I received a communication from R. E. Sir Robert L. Douglas, G. C. of Alabama, asking that I grant a waiver of jurisdiction over Companion H. D. Coulson, residing at Moss Point,

Miss., and permit him to join Mobile Commandery No. 2. This request was courteously declined as the consent of Coast Commandery U. D., at Biloxi, had not been obtained. I further stated that inasmuch as the Grand Commandery of Mississippi had repealed the resolution permitting Companions residing on the Coast to take the Templar Orders either in Mobile or New Orleans, in order to establish a Commandery at Biloxi, I did not feel warranted in taking any action in the matter, without the consent of Coast Commandery U. D., which has been organized on the strength of the repeal of that resolution.

The following Grand Representatives have been appointed, and commissioned :

July 14th, 1896—Past Grand Commander William G. Benbrook, by Grand Commandery Virginia; renewal of commission.

August 8th, 1896—Received the resignation of Sir Eli C. Birdsey, as Representative of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, he having accepted a commission from the District of Columbia.

October 8th, 1896—Commissioned Sir Louis F. de Lorermier, to Grand Commandery of Nebraska.

October 8th, 1896—Re-commissioned Sir George Cook to Grand Commandery of Maryland. On 31st same month received his courteous acceptance.

October 8th, 1896—Commissioned Sir Frank A. Briggs, of Bismarck, North Dakota, as Representative to that Grand Commandery.

October 8th, 1896—Re-commissioned Sir John Anderson, of Binghamton, to Grand Commandery of New York.

October 8th, 1896—Re-commissioned Sir Walter J. Thompson, to the Grand Commandery of Washington, and recommended the appointment of Sir John S. Cobb to succeed Sir King Dorwart, removed from this jurisdiction.

October 8th, 1896—Re-commissioned Sir John C. Davis, of Rawlins, as Representative to Grand Commandery of Wyoming.

October 9th, 1896—Sir L. J. Blalock, of Americus, to the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

October 9th, 1896—Commissioned Sir Henry H. Matthews, of Montgomery, to the Grand Commandery of Alabama.

October 9th, 1896—Commissioned Sir John Sinclair, of Jacksonville, to Grand Commandery of Florida; and recommended appointment of Sir E. C. Seavey, of St. Elmo Commandery, who was duly commissioned as Representative of the Grand Commandery of Florida.

October 19th, 1896—Commissioned Sir John W. Mix, of Meriden, to the Grand Commandery of Connecticut. Accepted November 3.

October 19th, 1896—Commissioned Sir Albert B. Jackson to Grand Commandery District of Columbia. Accepted November 11, 1896.

October 24th, 1896—Received notice of the appointment of Sir J. H. Wright, as Representative of the Grand Commandery of Wyoming, to succeed Sir Robert B. Brannin, deceased.

October 20th, 1896—Re-commissioned Sir James H. Coddington to Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, and recommended the reappointment of Sir Charles T. Chamberlain as Representative to the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, which was accordingly done.

October 20th, 1896—Received notice of reappointment of Sir John A. Dicks as Representative of the Grand Commandery of North Dakota.

February 6th, 1897—Issued commission to Sir James McD. Hays, of Greencastle, as Representative to Grand Commandery of Indiana.

In compliance with the request of Sir Stephen Berry, Chairman Committee on Christmas Observance, I issued the following Circular:

OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER,  
GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,  
MERIDIAN, November 25th, 1896.

*To the Officers of Subordinate Commanderies, and all Loyal Knights Templar within this Jurisdiction:*

DEAR FRATERS: The Committee on Christmas Observance of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America has prepared the following toast:

*To the Most Eminent Grand Master W. Larue Thomas, his faithful Knights send Greetings on this Holy Christmas-tide. "On earth peace, good will toward men."*

The Grand Master sends the following response:

*To all the Brotherhood of the Faith: May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

The Committee request all true Templars and their friends wherever dispersed, on land or sea, to join in these sentiments on Friday, December 25, A. D., 1896, A. O., 778, at noon Eastern standard time.

In testimony of our loyalty to the Most Eminent Grand Master, and devotion to the cause which he represents, you are invited to assemble in your Asylums, with your friends and all visiting Templars, and join in these sentiments on Friday, December 25, 1896, at 11 A. M. It is ordered that this notice be read at the head of the lines at the next Stated Conclave.

Your Grand Commander extends to each of you his greetings and wishes for all the full enjoyment of peace and happiness.

J. M. BUCHANAN,  
Grand Commander.

[SEAL.]

If the Grand Commandery of Mississippi expects to be represented at the next Triennial, it will not be premature to appoint a committee at this session and let them begin work. I have already received communications from the Triennial Committee of Pittsburg, asking that we take steps at once to secure hotel accommodations and headquarters. It strikes me that if we are going to be represented at all, it should be the pride of every one to make a creditable display.

I recommend that the incoming Grand Commander appoint a com-

mittee with instructions to proceed at once to make all necessary arrangements.

Now, my Fraters, I am about to return to you my trust, and I assure you that I have been deeply sensible of the honor you bestowed upon me, as well as appreciative of the responsibility of the office. It is with grateful heart that I acknowledge my duties have been made both easy and pleasant, by the assistance given me by other officers, and the uniform courtesies extended to me on all occasions.

May pestilence, sorrow, and disappointment be strangers to each and every one of you, and good will, peace and plenty be and abide with you.

On motion of Sir W. B. Walker, the address of the R. E. Grand Commander was ordered spread on the minutes, and referred:

1. So much as refers to Necrology, to a special committee of three.
2. So much as refers to Dispensations, to the Committee on Templar Law.
3. So much as refers to new and revived Commanderies, to the Committee on Templar law.
4. So much as refers to waiver of jurisdiction requested by the R. E. Grand Commander of Alabama, to the Committee on Templar Law.
5. That his appointments of Grand Representatives be approved.
6. So much as refers to the Triennial Conclave of Grand Encampment, to the Finance Committee.

7. The R. E. Grand Commander announced as the

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS—Sirs W. B. Walker, George C. Myers and J. F. Dixon.

Sir E. Thompson announced the program for Offices of Devotion, at the Methodist Church.

The Grand Commandery, at 5:30 P. M., took a recess until 7 o'clock P. M.

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## NIGHT SESSION.

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The Grand Commandery re-assembled at 7 o'clock P. M., and at once proceeded, under escort of The Coast Commandery, to the Methodist Church. Here a large audience of citizens had assembled, filling the side pews—the Grand Commandery occupying the two middle sections. The Offices of Devotion, conducted by the Grand Prelate, were then observed in a solemn and impressive manner, and greatly aided by a splendid choir.

During the exercises, the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir John A. B. Jones, delivered the following discourse:

## GRAND PRELATE'S DISCOURSE.

---

The purposes of this imposing assemblage, in this house erected to God and dedicated to His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Mississippi in full Templar dress uniform, are worthy our highest commendation as attested by this large, intelligent, and inspiring audience.

The "Devotional Offices" by the Grand Commandery, witnessed this hour cannot fail to impress each person here present with the true Christian character of the religious teachings of our magnanimous Order, and to stimulate each Sir Knight to earnest efforts in the future to conform his life to the pattern given us by our adorable Redeemer, in whose name we meet and for whose honor these "Devotional Offices" are performed. Like our Divine Example it should be the meat and drink of each Frater to do the will of our Heavenly Father, and thereby make the world better and brighter by our acts of charity and pure beneficence.

Earnestly desiring to contribute to the permanent benefits of this delightful occasion, and in perfect harmony with the purposes of these services, I most courteously request you to keep in the pleasant memories of this hour a part of the exhortation given to a pilgrim who offered himself to encounter the hazardous enterprise of traversing the Persian dominions, and seeking admission to the royal presence in order that he might seize the first favorable moment to remind the King of the vow he had made, and to impress upon his mind the almighty force and importance of Truth. May these words of exhortation be to us as to this distinguished pilgrim a lesson to cheer us on our way and assure us of success.

The exhortation is recorded

Hebrews xiii. chapter, 16 verse,

and reads as follows:

"But to do good and communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

The inspired author of these words of exhortation, in them, presents the union and mutual dependence of mankind in practical application.

It is very evident that man was designed by his Creator for social intercourse with his fellow man, and dependent for happiness and success, in a great measure, upon this intercourse, regulated by the teachings of the three great lights discovered and explained at the very threshold of Masonry. The same gospel lessons are taught, emphasized, and exemplified by each advancing step from E. A. to the most enrapturing revelations to the pilgrim from the far west, as he approaches nearer, and nearer, to the source of all light.

The benefits even in this life resulting from this union and depend-

ence by Divine appointment are beyond human computation. The allwise and merciful Author of all being has linked together the human family by chains stronger than steel, and ordained, that however numerous the distinctions among men resulting from the various acts and orders of providence, or from boasted pedigree, fortune, education, talents, different situations, and spheres of action, yet the chains shall not be severed. We are each the workmanship of the same hand, inhabitant of the same world, the object of the care of the same Heavenly Father, the subject of the same grace, the same pilgrimage to make, the same warfare to perform, strengthened by the same faith in the Lion of the tribe of Judah, animated by the same living hope, "and if by patient continuance in well doing seek her glory, honor, immortality—*eternal life.*"

In the grand and important mission of man in accomplishing his years of pilgrimage, and also his years of warfare, there will be presented to him abundant opportunities for the works of faith, the labors of love, and the patience of hope, demonstrating that the law requiring good works is not made void through faith. Some persons seem impatient, alarmed, whenever good works are urged, fearing that the doctrine of salvation by faith only, should be overshadowed by a salvation by works; none, however, will come under this class but such as profess Christ in his words but deny him in his works, such as cry "Hail, Master," and then crucify the Lord of glory, such as say "Lord, Lord," but do not the things the Master commends. Though good works are not the meritorious condition of eternal life, they are the twin graces of genuine serving faith, and according to their number and kind will be the gift of eternal glory, for it is by these acts we are to evidence the reality and strength of that principle by which they are produced, the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost given unto us, the result of faith.

"Who doeth good by loving deed, or word,  
Who lifteth up a fallen one, or dries a tear,  
Who helps another bear his heavy cross,  
Or on the parched and fevered lips doth pour  
A blessed draught of water, sweet and cool,  
Becomes co-worker with the Lord of All,  
Secures a rightful share in his success,  
And in the happiness that springs therefrom."

True, God is the fountain of all good; every good gift is from the Father of Light with whom there is no variableness or shadow of turning. All creatures look to him, all eyes wait on him. He hears the ravens when they cry, suffers not a sparrow to fall without his notice. His ear is especially attentive to the appeals from innocent maidens, destitute widows, and helpless orphans, but his revealed mode of relief is not to bestow the good required direct from his own hand, but for the beneficiaries of his providence and grace to do good and to communicate.

As a stimulus to obey the exhortation of the text we should keep in mind that we are pensioners upon the divine bounty. We have each been in peculiar circumstances to deeply impress the fact that we were penniless, unavoidably dependent upon the generous kindness of another for relief.

Freely ye have received, freely give. As we have therefore opportunity let us do good unto all men especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

The particular kind of well doing, or the practical way of doing good, is not specified in the Book of Law because the application is general, and the principles upon which it rests are applicable to benevolence of every kind. Charity to the bodies of men is enjoined as an essential part of Christian religion.

I John 3, 17, "But whoso hath this world's good and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, now how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

Rom. 12, 20, "If thine enemy hunger feed him, if he thirst give him drink."

There are wants in man more pressing than the wants of the body, miseries more intolerable to be endured than any physical affliction.

We as Knights Templar have a grander, a more gloriously important mission in this world than the original Crusaders led by Peter the Hermit, and the heroic Godfrey de Bouillan. *Their* aim in pilgrimage to Jerusalem was to rescue the Holy Sepulchre of the risen Christ. *Ours* to exemplify the teachings and illustrate the life of our risen and ascended Lord. Templarism is to know the teachings of this Christ and *live* them.

My Fraters, with voices, and Christ-like deeds of charity and pure beneficence we are to gladden the burdened hearts and elevate our race. By the song of the manger, the cross, the sepulchre, and the mount of ascension, and this practicing the lessons of the pilgrim's garb, the staff and sandals, the tent by the wayside, the morsel of bread, the cup of cold water, we show forth His praise.

The true Templar, the modern Hospitaller, shows the spirit of the born Knight of St. John—thereby giving valuable revelations of the garb, the tent, the cake of barley bread, and the cruse of cold water, pointing to the source of supply to hush the wails of suffering humanity by manifesting in these gentle ministries the Incarnate Son of God, our Immanuel.

"An arm of aid to the weak,  
A friendly hand to the friendless,  
Kind words so short to speak,  
But where echoes are endless,  
The world is wide—these things are small,  
They may be nothing—but *they are all.*"

We again make proclamation of our faith in the Gospel, and the

purposes for which we unsheath and wield our swords. Nothing nobler can inspire the human heart, nerve the human arm, or keep alive Christian enthusiasm in a human soul.

“ We are living, we are dwelling,  
In a grand and awful time,  
In an age on ages telling,  
To be living is sublime.”

We have our orders from Him who is exalted a Prince and a Saviour to give repentance and remission of sins, whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting—who is advancing with resistless steps conquering and to conquer. Enlisted under the banner of the Prince of Peace, whom to know is life eternal.

“ The banner of Immanuel, beneath its glorious folds,  
For life or death, to serve and fight, we pledge our loyal souls,  
No other flag such honor boasts, or bears so proud a name,  
And far its red-cross signal flies, as flies the lightning's flame.

The battles of two thousand years its sacred colors stain,  
The story of his victories who died and lived again,  
And still as bright its wing of light the morning winds unroll,  
And still its glories sweep the sky, and flash from pole to pole.”

At the close of the discourse, the usual collection for the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum was taken up, amounting to fifty-five dollars—that worthy cause having been first presented by Past Grand Commander Speed and Grand Recorder.

On returning to the Asylum, Grand Commandery adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

## SECOND DAY.

Biloxi, February 10, 1897.

The Grand Commandery resumed labor at 10 o'clock A. M.

The Committee on Credentials submitted the following report, which was adopted, and the Committee discharged :

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY :

Your Committee on Credentials beg leave to report that the several Commanderies are represented by the Sir Knights named :

MISSISSIPPI, No. 1—

William B. Taylor, Eminent Commander.

R. H. Henry, Captain-General.

MAGNOLIA, No. 2—

William G. Paxton, P. G. C., proxy for Eminent Commander.



**LEXINGTON, No. 3—**

C. Oltenburg, Eminent Commander.  
W. P. Tackett, Generalissimo.  
R. A. Stigler, Captain-General.

**HOLLY SPRINGS, No. 4—**

S. H. Pryor, Eminent Commander.

**ROSALIE, No. 5—**

Melchoir Betlzhooover, Eminent Commander.

**ST. CYR, No. 6—**

G. D. Brown, Eminent Commander.  
C. E. Romberger, proxy for Generalissimo.  
J. B. Rogers, proxy for Captain-General.

**DEMOULAY, No. 8—**

C. C. Buder, proxy for Eminent Commander.  
R. A. Vaughan, P. G. C., Generalissimo.

**CYRENE, No. 9—**

O. A. Harrison, Eminent Commander.  
E. J. Martin, Generalissimo.  
W. H. Howard, Captain-General.

**IVANHOE, No. 10—**

W. X. Wilson, Captain-General.

**COEUR DE LEON, No. 15—**

John A. B. Jones, P. G. C., Representative.

**DELTA, No. 16—**

William Starling, Eminent Commander.  
E. N. Thomas, Generalissimo.

**ABERDEEN, No. 17—**

Oliver L. McKay, Eminent Commander.

**ST. ELMO, No. 18—**

George C. Hoskins, proxy for Eminent Commander.  
C. E. Grafton, Generalissimo.  
L. C. Carroll, proxy for Captain-General.

**THE COAST, U. D.—**

Ebenezer Thompson, Eminent Commander.  
W. H. M. DuKate, Generalissimo.  
Harry G. Howard, Captain-General.

The following Past Eminent Commanders, not reporting in any other capacity, are also in attendance:

From Mississippi Commandery, No. 1—D. P. Porter, Nolan Stewart.

Holly Springs, No. 4—G. C. Myers.

Cyrene, No. 9—E. J. Martin, W. H. Howard, D. B. Waddell, J. R. McIntosh.

Ivanhoe, No. 10—E. M. Walker.

Aberdeen, No. 17—W. G. Sykes, A. A. Posey, W. B. Walker.

Your Committee are pleased to note the presence of an unusually large number of visiting Knights, from Cyrene, No. 9, St. Elmo, No. 18, and The Coast, U. D. The following lists have been handed the Committee:

From Cyrene Commandery, No. 9—O. A. Harrison, P. G. C.; E. J. Martin, Gen'o; W. H. Howard, C. G.; A. J. Peck, J. W.; W. S. Harris, Treas-

urer; H. C. Smith, Recorder: Chas. Elmire, St. B.; C. M. Rubush, Sw. B.; R. F. Parke, c. of G.; J. M. Buchanan, P. E. C., (Gr. Commander,) J. R. McIntosh, P. E. C., W. E. Baskin, W. D. Cameron, J. W. Collins, C. C. Coffee, Joseph Eakin, C. S. Eastman, C. R. Hoyer, W. B. Harberson, John Kamper, I. R. Mooser, Irvin Miller, C. W. Morgan, R. E. Moody, J. H. Neville, D. A. Ray, A. J. Russell, J. L. Spinks, S. A. Scruggs, E. Thompson, J. B. Watts, J. L. Wainwright, C. E. Newcomer.

From Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10—W. X. Wilson, c. G.; P. M. Savery, P. G. C.; E. M. Walker, P. E. C., Pass Christian; John S. Cobb, Verona; John M. Davis, Okolona; B. B. Fitzpatrick, J. T. Garrett, J. Q. Robins, L. B. McCullar, Tupelo; W. C. Harris, Ripley; B. McCullar, B. A. P. Selman, Booneville; Miss Laura Patrick, Tupelo, Sponsor. [See note at close of Proceedings.]

Coast Commandery, U. D.—All the officers and members of this Commandery are in attendance.

W. B. WALKER,  
GEO. C. MYERS,  
J. F. DIXON,

Committee.

The Grand Recorder submitted his Annual Report, which was read and referred to the Finance Committee:

#### REPORT OF GRAND RECORDER.

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI:

I beg to submit my Twenty-seventh Annual Report as your Grand Recorder:

The receipts for 1896 are as follows:

Mississippi Commandery, No. 1, dues 1895 .....	\$ 41 00
Magnolia Commandery, No. 2, dues 1895 .....	50 00
Magnolia Commandery, No. 2, dues 1895 .....	8 80
Rosalie Commandery, No. 5, dues 1895 .....	57 00
Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4, dues 1895 .....	22 00
St. Cyr Commandery, No. 6, dues 1895 .....	98 00
De Molay Commandery, No. 8, dues .....	38 00
Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, dues 1895 .....	117 00
Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10, dues 1895 .....	46 00
Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17, dues 1895 .....	31 00
St. Elmo Commandery, No. 18, dues 1895 .....	58 00
Coast Commandery, U. D., Dispensation .....	90 00
	<hr/>
	\$651 80

The disbursements for the year were \$558.30.

The Treasury balance this date is \$369.02.

The following tabulated statement shows the strength of the several Commanderies, and the gains and losses for 1896:

COMMANDERIES.											
	No.....	Knights .....	Affiliated.....	Reinstated.....	Dimitted .....	Died.....	Suspended, Dues	Suspended, U. C.	Expelled.....	Total Members..	Dues..... .....
Mississippi.....	1	4	1	3	1	...	...	...	32	\$ 52 00	
Magnolia.....	2	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	51	56 00	
Lexington .....	3	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	12	12 00	
Holly Springs.....	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	22	22 00	
Rosalie.....	5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	51	51 00	
St. Cyr.....	6	...	...	3	...	4	...	...	51	51 00	
DeMolay.....	8	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	30	30 00	
Cyrene.....	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	85 00	
Ivanhoe.....	10	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	44	49 00	
Cœur de Lion.....	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	9 00	
Delta (for 1895).....	16	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	25	45 00	
Aberdeen .....	17	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	28	28 00	
St. Elmo.....	18	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	55 00	
Coast.....	U. D. 18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	90 00	
		36	7	4	9	8	4	...	484	\$635 00	Net Gain, 26

Since our last Conclave, two other Commanderies have been added to our roll—one at Lexington, that has been dormant for several years, No. 3; the other at Biloxi, styled "The Coast Commandery." Since its organization in April, it has conferred the Orders on eighteen candidates. It will apply for a Charter at this time.

In no section of our great State has Freemasonry had so rapid and healthy a growth as in our Sea Coast counties, in recent years, and the Craft gave prompt recognition of this fact when they determined to hold their present meetings in Biloxi.

Having furnished the R. E. Grand Commander a complete list of Representatives commissioned to and from other Grand Jurisdictions, I omit the customary report of same by the Grand Recorder

I omit all reference, also, to the distinguished dead of other jurisdictions, of which due notice has been received, with the single exception of Sir Robert Brewster, Grand Recorder of Texas, who died July 24, 1896, and who, at the time, was the Senior Grand Recorder, in age and in years of service. A special courtesy was paid the veteran and distinguished Knight on the occasion of his funeral. The celebrated Fourth Cavalry Band of Mexico was passing through Houston, when President Diaz wired it to remain and participate in the obsequies.

The death of Sir Brewster placed your Grand Recorder at the head of the column; and this circumstance was pleasantly recognized in December last, when the following telegram was received:

OMAHA, NEB., December 20, 1896.

SIR J. L. POWER, GRAND RECORDER KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI :

The Knights Templar of Omaha, at their Christmas Observance, will drink to your health, happiness and long life as the Grand Recorder now at head of the column in years of service.

WM. R. BOWEN, Grand Recorder.

This was followed. December 26, by the following very pleasant communication :

OMAHA, NEB., December 26, 1896.

JOHN L. POWER—R. E. FRATER :

On December 25th we had our usual Christmas Observance, which we have held ever since the "Correspondents" ("M. A. S.") first instituted it, with ever increasing interest. Among the sentiments offered was the following :

"To J. L. Power, the Nestor of Grand Recorders: The greatest disburser of Masonic Relief Funds in this jurisdiction."

Those of us who know something of your past history (Masonic) were glad of this recognition, of your valuable services in the Masonic field. Personally I do not claim anything in this line, though I have given 43 years service as opportunity would allow. With great regard, believe me  
 Courteously yours,

EBEN K. LONG, P. G. C.,  
 Recorder.

[SEAL]

On Christmas Day a telegram of Knightly greeting to this Grand Body was received from Grand Representative John Anderson, Binghampton, New York. To all of which prompt acknowledgments were made.

Exercising the authority vested in Grand Recorder by a resolution adopted in 1894, appropriating \$25.00 to the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum whenever the condition of our finances would justify, drew on Grand Treasurer for \$25.00 for the year 1896.

Am happy to report that the Asylum was never in better condition. I visited the Institution on 29th December, and found that many improvements had been made looking to the comfort and health of the children. The aggregate cash of the responses to the Thanksgiving appeal which was sent out in November, amounted, to 1st inst., to the handsome sum of \$1,958.00. This, with the usual contributions from the Grand Lodge, Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias, Knights of Honor, and Odd Fellows, will carry the Aylum through the summer.

The annual report to the Grand Encampment, with per capita dues, was duly forwarded to General Grand Recorder Mayo, and his receipt for same is on file.

The Knights of Malta Ritual, adopted by Grand Encampment, was received and distributed to the several Commanderies.

Courteously submitted,

J. L. POWER, Grand Recorder.

Sir G. J. Bahin, Grand Treasurer, submitted his report, which was referred to the Finance Committee :

**REPORT OF GRAND TREASURER.**

G. J. BAHIN,

IN ACCOUNT WITH GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI :

1896.	DR.	
Feb. 12—To balance this date.....		\$275 52
1897.		
Feb. 9--To cash of Grand Recorder to date.....		651 80
		<hr/> \$927 32
1906.	CR.	
Feb. 14—By Pay Roll.....		\$107 45
Aug. 19—By Expressage .....		1 75
Oct. 4—By Commercial Herald, printing .....		218 50
Nov. 13—By Grand Encampment dues 1896 .....		22 05
1897.		
Feb. 4—By Clarion-Ledger, printing .....		36 75
Feb. 4—By Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum .....		25 00
Feb. 4—By Grand Treasurer's salary .....		25 00
Feb. 4—By Postage and Express, 1896-1897 .....		21 80
Feb. 4—By salary Grand Recorder 1896.....		100 00
		<hr/> \$558 30
1897		
Feb 9—On hand, to balance.....		369 02
		<hr/> \$927 32

Fraternally submitted,

GUS. J. BAHIN,

Grand Treasurer.

On motion of Sir Knight Speed, the members of Grand Commandery may sit without uniforms,

Grand Treasurer reported that the sum of fifty-five dollars had been contributed during the Offices of Devotion last night for the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum.

The Committee on Templar Law submitted the following report, which was adopted :

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPLAR LAW.**

TO THE RIGHT EMINENT, THE GRAND COMMANDERY :

The Committee on Templar Law beg leave to report that they advised the Right Eminent, the Grand Commander, during the year, that a Commandery under dispensation, requires no formal proceedings in order to commence work: the members assemble, and proceed as if regularly constituted, Sec. 2, Art. IV, page 21, Digest; its officers hold during the continuance of the dispensation, but the Grand Commander has power to relieve one and appoint another, Sec. 3, same Article; there is no installation until after the Commandery is constituted under a charter, nor of course, an election, page 59, Statutes; there is nothing for the Grand Commander to do after the issuance of the dispensation, and it is not necessary that he should be present, either in person or by proxy.

The entry on the minutes should be that by virtue of the dispensation, which should be set forth at length, a Commandery of Knights Templar was opened in the town of, &c., show who were present.

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED.

WM. G. PAXTON,

P. M. SAVERY.

Committee.

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY:

The Committee on Templar Law beg leave to report that we have examined the various portions of the Address of the R. E. Grand Commander, referred to us, and heartily endorse his acts and decisions, and the Knightly courtesy displayed by him during his official term.

FREDERIC SPEED,

WM. G. PAXTON,

P. M. SAVERY,

Committee.

Sir E. N. Thomas offered the following, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the incoming Grand Commander appoint a committee of five to arrange for attendance of this Grand Commandery at next Triennial Grand Encampment.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced as the

COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY—Sirs Ebenezer Thompson, R. H. Henry, G. D. Brown.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE—Sirs E. N. Thomas, J. W. Stephenson, W. G. Sykes.

Sir W. B. Taylor, E. C. elect of Mississippi Commandery, No. 1, was installed, in Grand Commandery, by Past Grand Commander Fred-  
eric Speed.

Past Grand Commander Speed offered the following, which was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States has had under consideration a proposed draft for a new Constitution:

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand Commandery that the organic law of the Grand Encampment ought to be modeled after that of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and should embody the principle that the several Grand Commanderies are entitled to the sole government and control of their subordinates, subject only to the regulation of the Grand Encampment in the matter of the Ritual, uniform, nomenclature, rank of officers and such matters as appertain exclusively to the general welfare of the Order, and leaving every matter and thing of local concern to the exclusive regulation of the Grand Commanderies.

*Resolved further*, That the Representatives of this Grand Commandery to all the other Grand Commanderies, be and they are hereby directed to bring the subject matter to the attention of the bodies to which they are commissioned, with a request that they consider the same, and instruct their Representatives in the next Triennial Conclave regarding their vote upon said proposed new Constitution; and that said Representatives be directed to report the action to the bodies to which they are commissioned, to the Grand Commander, as soon as may be, after the same has been under consideration.

On motion of Sirs DeLap and McKay, Grand Commandery proceeded to the election of Grand Officers, when the following were chosen:

JAMES T. HARRISON ..... Columbus..... R. E. Grand Commander.  
 WILLIAM STARLING..... Greenville .... V. E. Dep. Grand Commander.  
 JOHN S. COBB..... Verona ..... Grand Generalissimo.  
 REV. JOHN A. B. JONES..... Magnolia..... Grand Captain-General.  
 REV. EBENEZER THOMPSON... Biloxi ..... Grand Prelate.  
 GUS. J. BAHIN ..... Natchez ..... Grand Treasurer.  
 J. L. POWER..... Jackson ..... Grand Recorder.  
 OLIVER L. MCKAY ..... Aberdeen..... Grand Senior Warden.  
 HARRY T. HOWARD..... Biloxi .. Grand Junior Warden.  
 J. F. DIXON ..... Natchez ..... Grand Standard Bearer.  
 R. H. HENRY ..... Jackson ..... Grand Sword Bearer.  
 W. X. WILSON ..... Tupelo ..... Grand Warder.

On motion, it was ordered that the Grand Commander elect may appoint a Grand Captain-General from the Commandery stationed at the place of next Grand Conclave.

On motion, the following Sir Knights, now affiliated in this Grand Jurisdiction, were declared members of this Grand Commandery:

Sir Charles S. Eastman, Past Eminent Commander, State of New York.

Sir D. W. Halstead, Past Eminent Commander, Iowa.

The following report was submitted and adopted:

#### THE COAST COMMANDERY, U. D.

TO THE RIGHT EMINENT, THE GRAND COMMANDERY:

The Committee on Templar Law to whom was referred the application of Coast Commandery, Under Dispensation, stationed at Biloxi, for a Charter, beg leave to report that they have examined its proceedings and records and find them in all respects regular and its organization conformable to the laws of the Grand Encampment and of the Grand Commandery. It is very handsomely uniformed and equipped with all necessary paraphernalia, and has an Asylum properly furnished. They recommend that it be chartered, to be numbered 19, and therefore submit the following:

*Resolved*, That a Charter be granted to The Coast Commandery, to be stationed at Biloxi, in Harrison county, and numbered Nineteen on the roll of the Grand Commandery.

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED,  
 WILLIAM GALLATIN PAXTON,  
 PHINEAS M. SAVERY,  
 Committee.

#### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY:

Your Finance Committee has examined the accounts of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer, and find the same correct.

We recommend an appropriation of \$25.00 to the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum, to be applied toward the proposed hospital for that institution.

We recommend that the sum of \$250.00 be set aside for expenses of the Grand Body at the next Triennial Conclave of Grand Encampment.

E. N. THOMAS,  
 W. G. SYKES,  
 J. W. STEPHENSON,  
 Committee.

Sir DeLap submitted his Annual Report as Correspondence Reporter, which was received and ordered printed with the proceedings.

On motion of Sir B. T. Kimbrough, the "honorarium" of Correspondence Reporter was increased from \$50.00 to \$75.00, to take effect with present Conclave.

The Grand Officers elect were then duly installed by Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed, and assumed their several stations.

The Grand Commander announced the following

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES.**

TEMPLAR LAW—Frederic Speed, P. G. C., William G. Paxton, P. G. C., P. M. Savery, P. G. C.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—E. G. DeLap, P. G. C., Reporter.

TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE—GRAND ENCAMPMENT—E. N. Thomas, C. W. Gibson, Harry T. Howard, J. H. Wright, B. A. Weaver.

On motion of Past Grand Commander Speed, the thanks of Grand Commandery were cordially tendered the retiring Grand Commander, R. E. J. M. Buchanan, for the zeal, ability and courtesy exhibited by him in the discharge of his official duties.

On motion of Sir J. F. Dixon, the thanks of this Grand Commandery are hereby specially tendered to Mobile Commandery, No. 2, for hospitality while in the city; to R. E. Sir Robert L. Douglas, Grand Commander of Alabama, and his Escort, for unstinted courtesies; to The Coast Commandery, and citizens generally of Biloxi; to the Methodist congregation for the use of their house of worship last night, and to the choir for the delightful music on that occasion.

On motion of Grand Recorder, the thanks of the Grand Commandery were tendered the several railroads for the courtesy of special rates for this Grand Conclave.

On the further motion of Grand Recorder, it was ordered that the next Annual Conclave shall be held at such place as may be selected by the Grand Lodge, and on the second day preceding the Annual Communication thereof.

No further business appearing, the Thirty-Seventh Annual Conclave was closed in Solemn and Knightly Form, after prayer by Rev. Sir Ebenezer Thompson, Grand Prelate.

**JAMES T. HARRISON,**

ATTEST:

Grand Commander.



Grand Recorder.

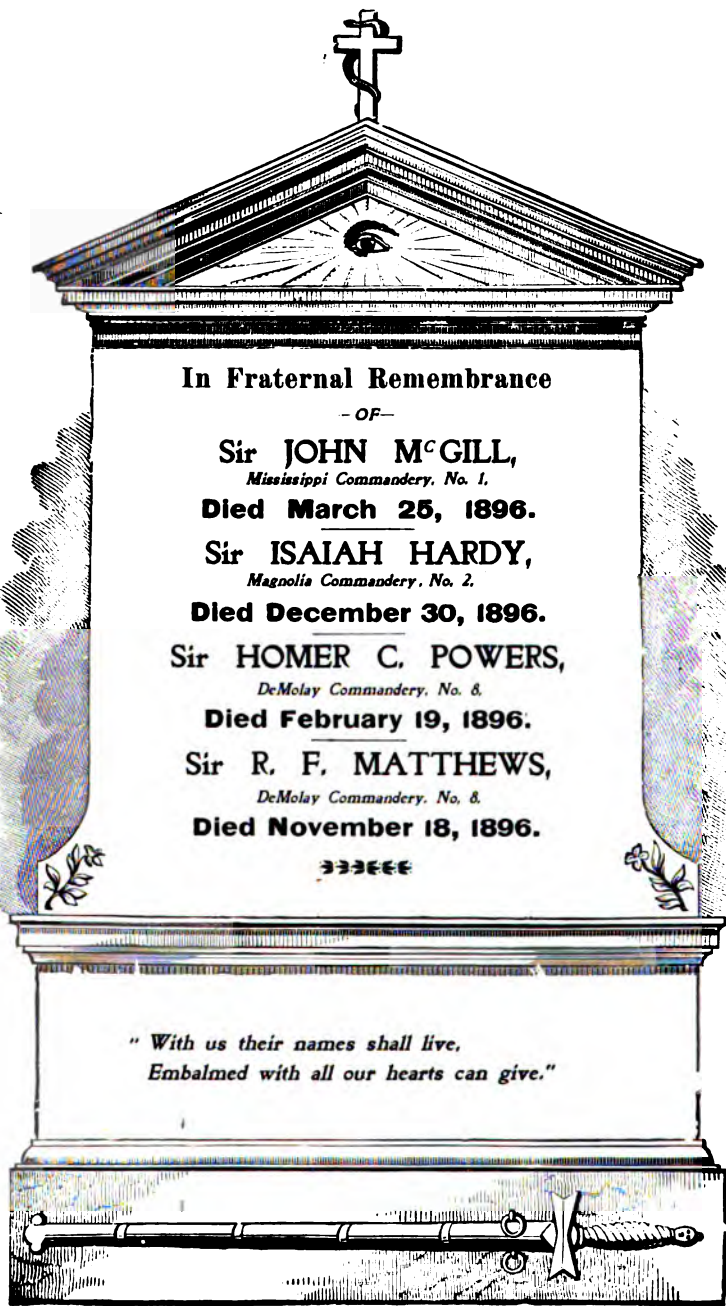


## **UNOFFICIAL.**

### **From Past Grand Commander P. M. Savery.**

"Miss Laura Patrick, of Tupelo, was elected Sponser of the Commandery for the occasion; in which election several Sir Knights from DeMolay No. 8, and Aberdeen No. 17 united and afterwards presented said Sponser with a beautiful souvenir manufactured expressly for the purpose in Mobile, Ala. It was a breast-pin formed of a golden Templar sword, one and a half inches in length, surmounted by a Templar shield, symbolizing 'Templar protection.' The souvenir was presented to Miss Patrick at the residence of Sir W. X. Wilson (her brother-in-law) in Tupelo, by a special committee of Sir Knights appointed by the donors for that purpose.

"The Knights of North-East Mississippi have thus elected the first Sponser for a Commandery of Knights Templar in the State of Mississippi."



**In Fraternal Remembrance**

**- OF -**

**Sir JOHN M<sup>c</sup>GILL,**

*Mississippi Commandery, No. 1.*

**Died March 25, 1896.**

**Sir ISAIAH HARDY,**

*Magnolia Commandery, No. 2.*

**Died December 30, 1896.**

**Sir HOMER C. POWERS,**

*DeMolay Commandery, No. 8.*

**Died February 19, 1896.**

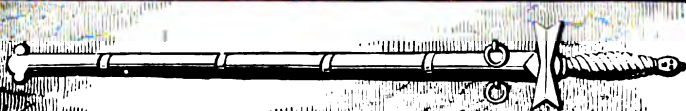
**Sir R. F. MATTHEWS,**

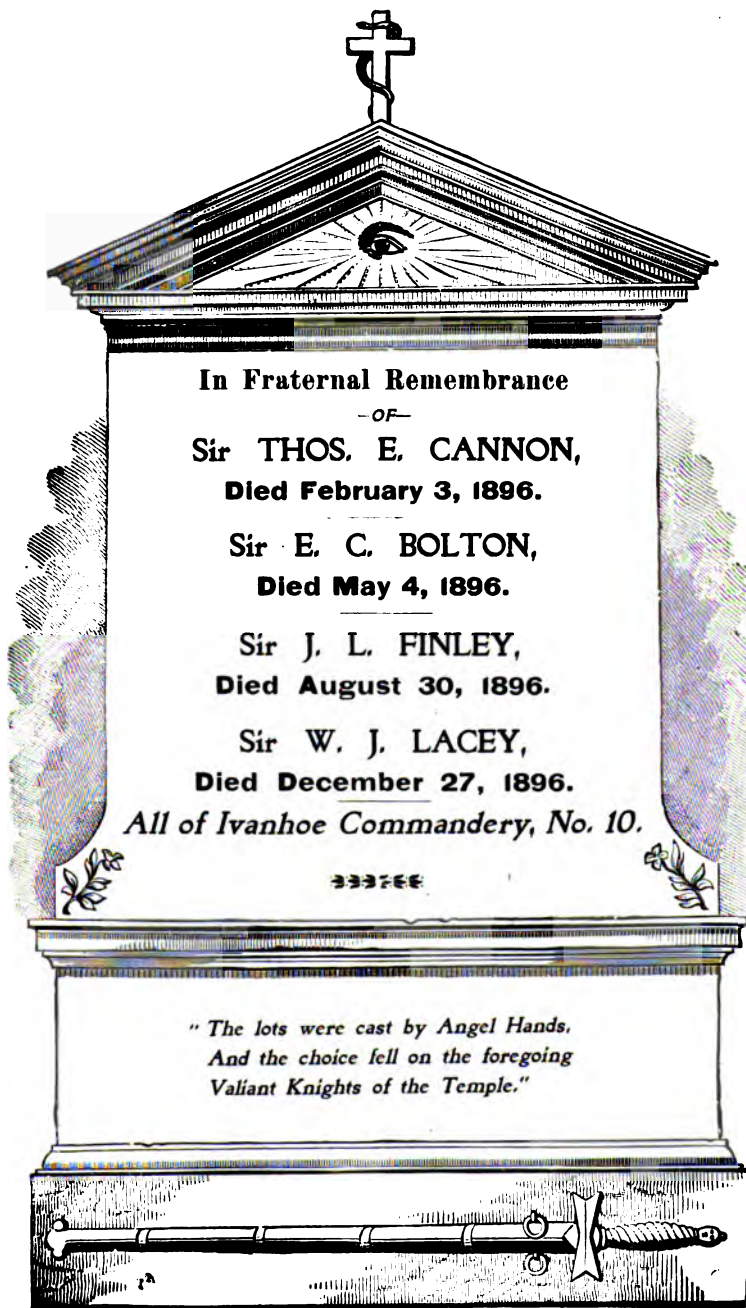
*DeMolay Commandery, No. 8.*

**Died November 18, 1896.**



*" With us their names shall live,  
Embalmed with all our hearts can give."*





In Fraternal Remembrance

—OF—

Sir THOS. E. CANNON,

Died February 3, 1896.

Sir E. C. BOLTON,

Died May 4, 1896.

Sir J. L. FINLEY,

Died August 30, 1896.

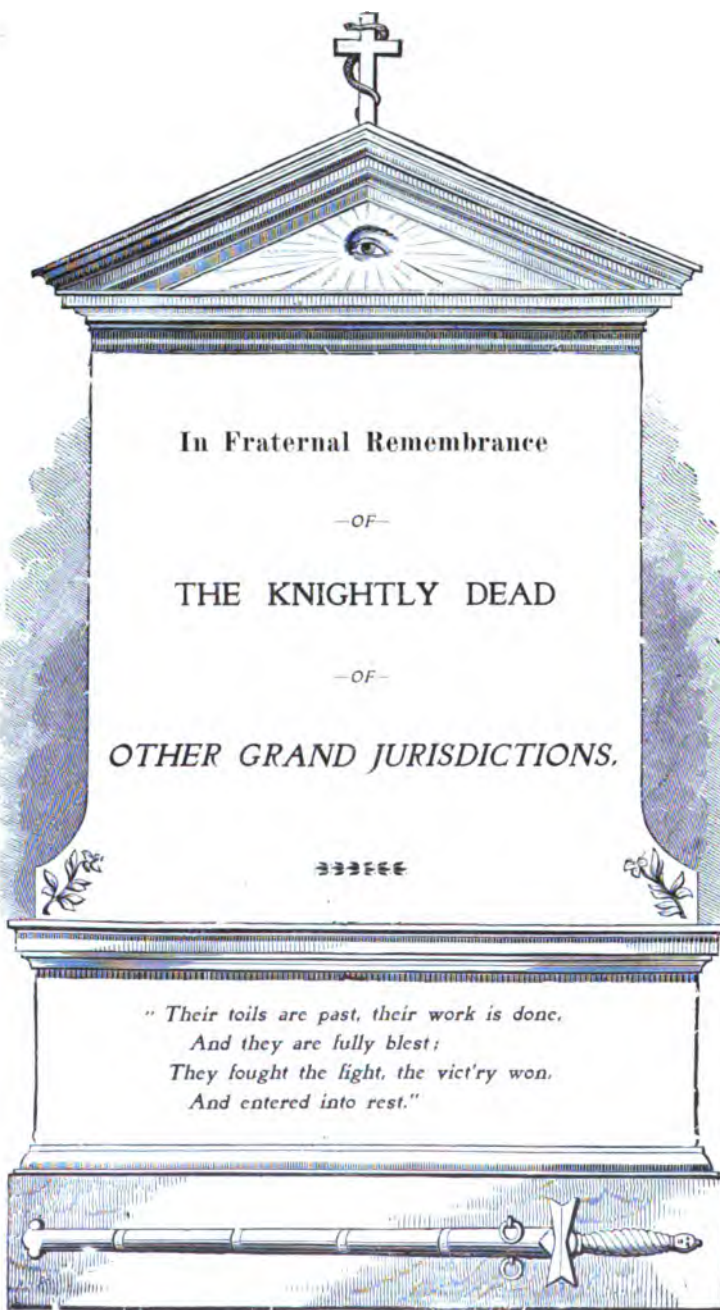
Sir W. J. LACEY,

Died December 27, 1896.

*All of Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10.*

\*\*\*

*"The lots were cast by Angel Hands,  
And the choice fell on the foregoing  
Valiant Knights of the Temple."*



In Fraternal Remembrance

—OF—

THE KNIGHTLY DEAD

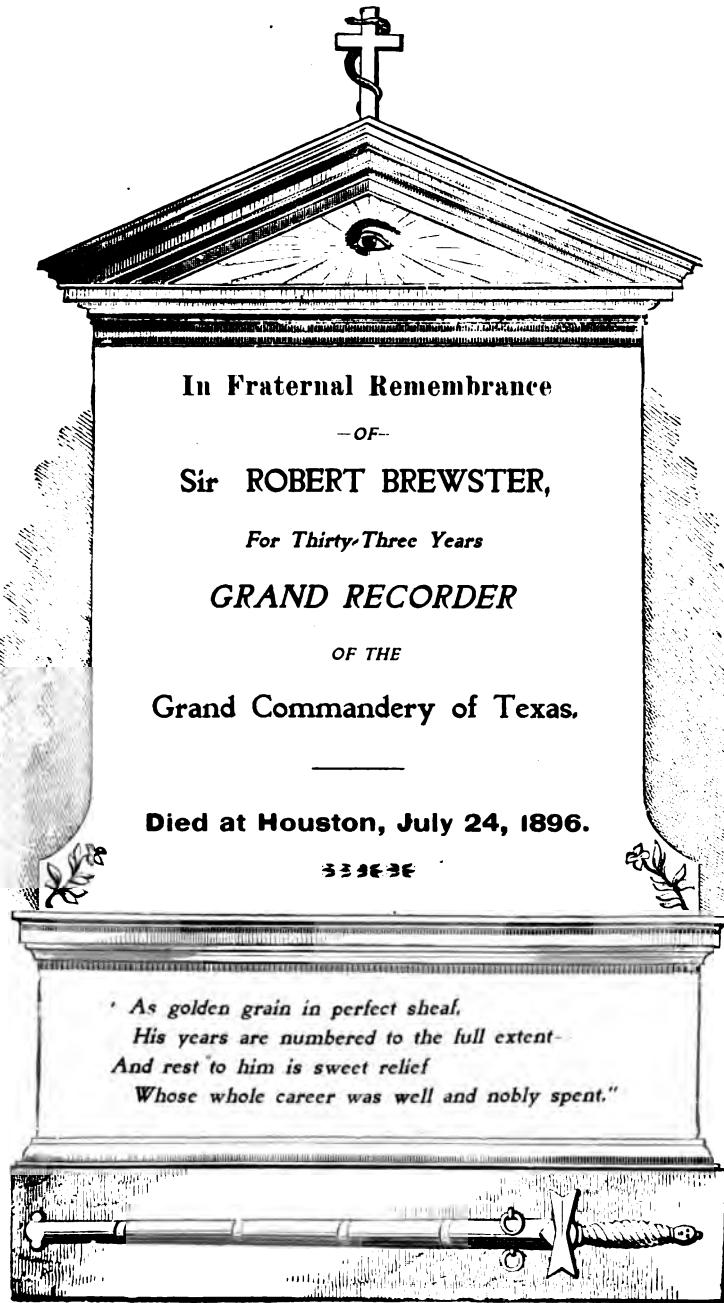
—OF—

*OTHER GRAND JURISDICTIONS.*

~~~~~

*" Their toils are past, their work is done,  
And they are fully blest;  
They fought the fight, the vict'ry won.  
And entered into rest."*







# Returns of Subordinate Commanderies.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 27, 1896.

(INCLUDING OFFICERS FOR 1897.)

## MISSISSIPPI COMMANDERY, No. 1—JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1897.

|                           |          |                                |              |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| W. B. Taylor .....        | E. C.    | H. M. Taylor.....              | Treasurer.   |
| R. Griffith.....          | Gen'o.   | W. J. Brown, Jr., P. E. C..... | Recorder.    |
| R. H. Henry .....         | C. G.    | R. F. McGill, P. E. C.....     | St. Bearer.  |
| J. L. Power, P. E. C..... | Prelate. | Geo. Lemon, P. E. C.....       | Sw. Bearer.  |
| A. J. Chapman .....       | S. W.    | Nolan Stewart, P. E. C.....    | Warder.      |
| J. A. Webb, P. E. C.....  | J. W.    | John M. Cain.....              | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—D. P. Porter, A. G. Lewis.

MEMBERS—Robert Bradley, J. T. P. Berry, W. J. Ferguson, H. M. Folkes, George T. Gracey, B. W. Griffith, Wirt Johnston, B. C. Lemly, James M. McKee, W. W. Moore, W. S. Pittman, J. W. Power, O. B. Quin, R. V. Rachford, W. W. Robertson, J. F. Robinson, W. H. Teagarden, E. B. Tabor—32.

KNIGHTED—J. T. B. Berry, C. C. Swinney, W. B. Tackett, E. B. Tabor.

AFFILIATED—P. A. Lindholm.

DIMITTED—C. C. Swinney, W. P. Tackett, P. A. Lindholm.

DIED—John McGill, March 25, 1896.

EXPELLED—W. H. Gibbs, (Non-Affiliated), embezzlement of U. S. Post Office money.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$52 00

## MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY, No. 2—VICKSBURG, WARREN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 1st Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1897.

|                              |          |                               |              |
|------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Albert M. Lea.....           | E. C.    | Henry W. Bowen .....          | Treasurer.   |
| Charles H. Fife.....         | Gen'o.   | Alex. M. Paxton.....          | Recorder.    |
| Albert Arnold.....           | C. G.    | William Curphey.....          | St. Bearer.  |
| Wm. G. Paxton, P. G. C.....  | Prelate. | Robt. B. Chapman .....        | Sw. Bearer.  |
| John W. Powell, P. E. C..... | S. W.    | Jas. K. Moore, P. E. C.....   | Warder.      |
| Fredric Speed, P. G. C.....  | J. W.    | Jno. Schlottman, P. E. C..... | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—James J. Hays, John D. Miles, Edward C. Carroll.

MEMBERS—Joseph Biedenharn, Emile Bonelli, William M. Chamberlin, Samuel H. Childress, Robert L. Dunn, C. W. Gibson, James M. Gibson, W. E. Gilmore, Charles E. Gore, M. O. Gorman, Charles E. Grant,

George L. Gurley, A. L. Jaquith, W. E. Keisker, W. G. Kiger, James H. King, B. F. Laurence, William W. Lord, William J. McKee, A. J. Hood, Charles Pare, M. R. Payne, John W. Parkhurst, John C. Pritchett, J. D. Smith, M. F. Smith, William J. Smith, William Stanton, Lee Richardson, Phin. R. Starr, L. J. Thomas, J. B. White, J. C. White, A. L. Williams, H. Y. Wilson, C. G. Wright—51.

KNIGHTED—A. J. Hood.

DIMITTED—C. A. Rice.

DIED—Isaiah Hardy, December 30, 1896.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$56 00

#### LEXINGTON COMMANDERY, No. 3—LEXINGTON HOLMES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Tuesday night of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1897.

|                    |          |                     |              |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------|
| C. Oltenburg.....  | E. C.    | R. H. Baker.....    | Treasurer.   |
| W. P. Tackett..... | Gen'o.   | P. A. Lindholm..... | Recorder.    |
| R. A. Stigler..... | C. G.    | .....               | St. Bearer.  |
| John Bedford.....  | Prelate. | .....               | Sw. Bearer.  |
| J. W. Jordan.....  | S. W.    | C. C. Swinney.....  | Warder.      |
| D. M. Diggs.....   | J. W.    | .....               | C. of Guard. |

MEMBERS—H. P. Davis, J. D. Dabney, W. T. Johnson.

AFFILIATED—W. P. Tackett, C. C. Swinney, R. A. Stigler, J. W. Jordan, D. M. Diggs—12.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$12 00

#### HOLLY SPRINGS COMMANDERY, No. 4 HOLLY SPRINGS, MARSHALL COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Monday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1897—(HOLDING OVER ON ACCOUNT *no quorum*.)

|                      |          |                           |              |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| S. H. Pryor.....     | E. C.    | R. A. McWilliams.....     | Treasurer.   |
| W. S. Hill.....      | Gen'o.   | L. B. Mosby, P. E. C..... | Recorder.    |
| W. B. Bradberry..... | C. G.    | S. D. Hamilton.....       | St. Bearer.  |
| J. C. Sheets.....    | Prelate. | J. P. Alvis.....          | Sw. Bearer.  |
| B. F. Popham.....    | S. W.    | M. H. Leach.....          | Warder.      |
| A. B. McCrosky.....  | J. W.    | J. G. Leach.....          | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—G. C. Myers.

MEMBERS—J. J. Brooks, H. D. Campbell, W. A. Heard, J. R. Horton, B. T. Kimbrough, T. W. Lewis, J. H. Morgan, J. W. Stephenson, J. L. Wilson—22.

DIMITTED—R. C. Leland, (erroneously reported as suspended in last Returns.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$22 00

Sir Knight McCrosky died January 22, 1897.

#### ROSALIE COMMANDERY, No. 5—NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Saturday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1897.

|                           |        |                         |             |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Melchior Beltzhoover..... | E. C.  | George W. Koontz.....   | Treasurer.  |
| W. B. Irvine.....         | Gen'o. | Charles F. Merrick..... | Recorder.   |
| Martin Neiheysel.....     | C. G.  | Walter Rutherford.....  | St. Bearer. |



Charles Morris ..... Prelate. P. J. McCormick ..... Sw. Bearer.  
 William C. Hathcox ..... S. W. Madison A. Tyer ..... Warder  
 John Conner ..... J. W. Charles W. Sawyer ..... C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—W. G. Benbrook, E. G. DeLap, C. T. Chamberlain, Jno. A. Dicks, Frank S. Shaw, J. C. French, Gus. J. Bahin, J. Foggo Dixon.

MEMBERS—T. Jeff. Adams, W. H. Aikman, Samuel D. Baker, George M. Brown, James A. Clinton, L. P. Conner, Jr., William L. Davis, Aug. Day, C. F. Farrar, J. S. Fleming, A. H. Foster, J. S. Gaynor, E. J. Guice, W. H. Hendrick, S. P. Hornsby, W. J. Kaizer, David King, K. L. Klapp, R. F. Learned, T. Q. Munce, S. McDowell, C. H. McIlwaine, W. G. McNair, R. Lee Parker, Jacob Peebles, S. Pennywitt, J. J. Proby, F. L. Rumble, E. J. Van Court, Ben. D. Watkins, J. S. York—51.

REINSTATED—David King, W. G. McNair.

DISMITTED—L. E. Hildreth, H. C. Norman.

Dues to Grand Commandery ..... \$51 00

#### ST. CYR COMMANDERY, No. 6--WATER VALLEY, YALOBUSHA COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Thursday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1897.

G. D. Brown ..... E. C. Joel Crooms, P. E. C. .... Treasurer.  
 W. C. Blount ..... Gen'o. J. A. Pate, P. E. C. .... Recorder.  
 S. B. Brown, P. E. C. .... C. G. E. F. Chrisp ..... St. Bearer.  
 R. H. Ramsey ..... Prelate. L. W. Deckle ..... Sw. Bearer.  
 D. H. Hollowell ..... S. W. W. H. Price ..... Warder.  
 C. E. Romberger ..... J. W. G. J. Robertson ..... C. of Guard.

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. K. Fulson, P. G. C., H. M. Romberger, I. T. Blount, C. Montgomery, W. C. Shackelford.

MEMBERS—W. H. Biles, J. V. Blackmar, C. R. Cock, C. H. Campbell, Jno. Flack, H. Gibbons, J. T. Goodwin, H. A. Gant, Frank L. Hope, J. D. D. Halle, F. B. Herron, Jas. H. Johnson, Jno. Kirby, J. L. Kirby, J. S. Kettle, Alex. Kennedy, J. T. Lay, R. C. Leland, W. E. Moring, J. W. McCorkle, R. N. Owens, D. C. Powell, J. B. Rogers, B. R. Scott, R. Spearman, A. T. Smith, W. F. Shoffner, W. D. Shell, T. F. Trainer, W. C. Winters, T. H. Walker, F. W. Weatherby, John Wright, Edwin Wright.

DISMITTED—D. M. Diggs, J. W. Jordon, R. A. Steigler.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—J. H. Fulson, Ney Fisher, W. A. Hadaway, M. D. L. Stephens.

Dues to Grand Commandery ..... \$51 00

#### DEMOLAY COMMANDERY, No. 8--COLUMBUS, LOWNDES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Friday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1897.

C. L. Lincoln, P. E. C. .... E. C. M. A. Franklin ..... Treasurer.  
 B. A. Vaughan, P. E. C., P. G. C. .... Gen'o. C. W. Mills ..... Recorder.  
 B. A. Weaver ..... C. G. J. P. Stansell ..... St. Bearer.  
 G. W. Cox, P. G. C. .... Prelate. W. D. Prowell ..... Sw. Bearer.  
 H. M. Waddell ..... S. W. C. C. Buder ..... Warder.  
 T. B. Franklin ..... J. W. D. S. McClanahan ..... C. of Guard.

MEMBERS—J. S. Billups, Willis Banks, G. Y. Banks, C. E. Boykin, N. L. Davis, J. M. Easton, J. D. Guyton, J. W. Gardner, J. T. Harrison, W. R. Harrington, E. S. Moore, Charles G. McGee, W. C. McCullar, H. Os-

borne, J. H. Stevens, W. E. Warring, W. W. Westmoreland, G. W. Wilmot—30.

DIED—H. C. Powers, February 19, 1896; R. F. Matthews, November 18, 1896.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$30 00

### CYRENE COMMANDERY, No. 9—MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Thursday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1897.

|                             |          |                     |              |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------|
| O. A. Harrison.....         | E. C.    | W. S. Harris.....   | Treasurer.   |
| E. J. Martin.....           | Gen'o.   | H. C. Smith.....    | Recorder.    |
| W. H. Howard.....           | C. G.    | Charles Elmire..... | St. Bearer.  |
| D. B. Waddell, P. E. c..... | Prelate. | C. M. Rubush.....   | Sw. Bearer.  |
| J. H. Wright, P. E. c.....  | S. W.    | F. E. Smith.....    | Warder.      |
| A. J. Peck.....             | J. W.    | R. J. Parke.....    | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. R. McIntosh, J. M. Buchanan, G. Smallshaf.

MEMBERS—J. C. Andrews, I. W. Bross, P. E. Blalock, W. E. Baskin, W. D. Cameron, J. W. Collins, T. C. Carter, C. C. Coffee, I. H. Crane, E. E. Clement, Joseph Eaken, C. S. Eastman, J. L. Gaston, T. R. Harrison, J. S. Houston, T. B. Holloman, C. R. Hays, W. B. Harbeson, L. H. Hulse, J. T. Iglehart, W. N. Jones, J. E. Jones, John Kamper, E. B. Keeling, W. J. Kennedy, A. A. Kincannon, T. B. Lamb, T. C. Lyle, I. A. Mooseer, Irvin Miller, B. McClanahan, C. C. Miller, C. W. Morgan, R. E. Moody, C. E. Newcomer, J. H. Neville, N. W. Patterson, D. A. Ray, W. B. Rogers, A. J. Russell, J. R. Smith, J. L. Spinks, S. A. Scruggs, J. H. Short, M. J. Thompson, Ebenezer Thompson, J. A. Treadaway, J. R. Tackett, J. B. Watts, C. G. Westbrook, T. L. Wainwright, M. W. Woodbury, S. E. Wilson, R. J. Wright, B. White—72.

HONORARY MEMBERS—W. E. Keller, C. S. Starkweather.

KNIGHTED—N. W. Patterson, R. E. Moody, J. R. Tackett.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$85 00

### IVANHOE COMMANDERY, No. 10—OKOLONA, CHICKASAW COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Thursday after 2d Wednesday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1897.

|                     |          |                      |              |
|---------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|
| J. W. Keyes.....    | E. C.    | T. W. Williams.....  | Treasurer.   |
| J. F. Hodges.....   | Gen'o.   | W. J. Stockett.....  | Recorder.    |
| W. X. Wilson.....   | C. G.    | R. M. Sadler.....    | St. Bearer.  |
| N. G. Augustus..... | Prelate. | B. A. P. Selman..... | Sw. Bearer.  |
| J. M. Dodds.....    | S. W.    | W. I. Harrill.....   | Warder.      |
| J. M. Davis.....    | J. W.    | G. W. Anglin.....    | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C., E. M. Walker, P. M. Savery, P. G. C., W. M. Buchanan.

MEMBERS—W. B. Barker, C. W. Bolton, W. L. Burnett, R. H. Collins, J. S. Cobb, W. J. Curtis, J. T. Davis, G. D. Dillard, D. H. Goff, C. B. Hood, W. C. Harris, Z. T. Harper, B. McCuller, L. B. McCuller, J. Seale, G. Ligon, J. M. Trice, H. W. Hunter, W. A. Canty, G. S. Henderson, J. Q. Robins, James Gordon, B. B. Fitzpatrick, W. H. Griffin, J. T. Harris, J. T. Garritt—42.

KNIGHTED—J. T. Garritt.

DIED—J. L. Finley, August 30, 1896; T. E. Cameron, February 3, 1895; E. C. Bolton, May 4, 1896; W. J. Lacey.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$47 00

**CŒUR DELION COMMANDERY, No. 13—PORT GIBSON, CLAIBORNE COUNTY.**

Regular Conclaves 1st Wednesday of each month.

**OFFICERS FOR 1897.**

|                       |                           |              |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| F. H. Foote .....     | E. C. —                   | Treasurer.   |
| Stephen Thrasher..... | Gen'o. —                  | Recorder.    |
| R. A. Owen .....      | C. G. J. W. Andrews ..... | St. Bearer.  |
| J. A. B. Jones .....  | Prelate. A. Sager.....    | Sw. Bearer.  |
| A. K. Burnet .....    | S. W. W. B. Lewis .....   | Warder.      |
| J. H. Gordon .....    | J. W. —                   | C. of Guard. |

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$9 00

[For 1895.]

**DELTA COMMANDERY, No. 19—GREENVILLE, WASHINGTON COUNTY.**

Regular Conclaves 4th Tuesday of each month.

**OFFICERS FOR 1896.**

|                        |                                 |              |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| William Starling ..... | E. C. John P. Finlay .....      | Treasurer.   |
| E. N. Thomas.....      | Gen'o. Dan. B. Head.....        | Recorder.    |
| W. R. Trigg .....      | C. G. R. M. Standifer .....     | St. Bearer.  |
| William Cross.....     | Prelate. Charles W. Dudley..... | Sw. Bearer.  |
| Stevenson Archer.....  | S. W. J. A. Randolph .....      | Warder.      |
| R. L. Clack .....      | J. W. Charles N. Bell.....      | C. of Guard. |

**MEMBERS**—George E. Billingsley, Louis Bratson, W. L. Clack, Thos. R. Davis, King Dorwart, S. W. Ferguson, W. G. Jaquess, John G. Jones, Walter H. McClain, W. B. Roberts, Alex. Y. Scott, John B. Scruggs, Charles H. Smith—25.

**KNIGHTED**—John G. Jones, Charles N. Bell, Thomas R. Davis, Walter H. McClain.

**AFFILIATED**—John B. Scruggs.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$45 00

**ABERDEEN COMMANDERY, No. 17—ABERDEEN, MONROE COUNTY.**

Regular Conclaves 4th Thursday of each month.

**OFFICERS FOR 1897.**

|                     |                                 |              |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| O. L. McKay .....   | E. C. J. W. Eckford.....        | Treasurer.   |
| W. H. Clifton.....  | Gen'o. Henry W. Campbell.....   | Recorder.    |
| J. J. McDonald..... | C. G. E. W. Thomas.....         | St. Bearer.  |
| J. A. Mayfield..... | Prelate. T. B. Thomas .....     | Sw. Bearer.  |
| W. A. Charping..... | S. W. A. A. Posey, P. E. c..... | Warder.      |
| J. C. Brown.....    | J. W. A. J. Smith.....          | C. of Guard. |

**PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS**—F. P. Jenkins, P. G. C., W. G. Sykes, W. B. Walker.

**MEMBERS**—S. H. Berg, J. H. Bowen, G. L. Clopton, C. W. Gibson, W. Lindmood, V. M. Moore, J. L. Shell, W. F. Thomas, Edgar Wilson, L. G. Nisbit, Willis Puckett, E. G. Smith—27.

**REINSTATED**—E. G. Smith.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$28 00

St. ELMO COMMANDERY, No, 18—BROOKHAVEN, LINCOLN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Friday of each month.

(OFFICERS FOR 1897.

|                       |          |                    |              |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|
| E. C. McCormick.....  | E. C.    | H. Meyers .....    | Treasurer.   |
| C. E. Grafton.....    | Gen'o.   | C. F. Heuck .....  | Recorder.    |
| W. H. Seavey.....     | C. G.    | F. M. Lee.....     | St. Bearer.  |
| C. E. Batty.....      | Prelate. | W. F. Parsons..... | Sw. Bearer.  |
| G. C. Hoskins.....    | S. W.    | N. Greener .....   | Warder.      |
| E. H. Easterling..... | J. W.    | C. Heuck .....     | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—J. E. Seavey.

MEMBERS—Lee O. Bridewell, F. M. Beall, C. L. Carroll, Thomas E. Dixon, D. D. Ewing, J. W. Elliott, D. L. Easterling; J. A. Hoskins, S. W. Hoskins, H. K. Hill, A. E. Maxwell, E. M. Mason, A. E. Moreton, H. McCogan, J. A. McCormick, Jr., M. Ryals, W. R. Summers, J. B. Tarnsey, J. B. Tennant, A. J. Whitworth, T. O. Watkins, W. L. Wallace—35.

KNIGHTED—C. L. Carroll, Thomas E. Dixon, D. L. Easterling, S. W. Hoskins, J. A. McCormick, Jr.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$55 00

THE COAST COMMANDERY, U. D.,\*—BILOXI, HARRISON COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 3d Thursday of each month.

(OFFICERS FOR 1897.

|                        |          |                      |              |
|------------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|
| Ebenezer Thompson..... | E. C.    | L. Lopez.....        | Treasurer.   |
| W. H. M. Dukate.....   | Gen'o.   | H. J. Meaut .....    | Recorder.    |
| H. T. Howard.....      | C. G.    | E. W. Morrill.....   | St. Bearer.  |
| E. E. Clement.....     | Prelate. | Louis R. Bowen.....  | Sw. Bearer.  |
| J. F. McCormick.....   | S. W.    | T. H. Gleason.....   | Warder.      |
| G. E. Park.....        | J. W.    | R. B. Harrison ..... | C. of Guard. |

MEMBERS—L. B. Belt, W. T. Bolton, E. J. Bowers, J. C. Bradford, E. L. Browne, J. B. Garrard, William Gorenflo, L. D. Herrick, C. D. Lancaster, Isaac Mass, J. H. Neville, H. H. Richardson, T. J. Rosello, Collins Phelps, A. D. Shelton, C. W. Wachenfeld, W. A. White—29.

KNIGHTED—W. T. Bolton, Louis R. Bowen, J. C. Bradford, W. K. M. Dukate, J. B. Garrard, T. H. Gleason, William Gorenflo, R. B. Harrison, H. T. Howard, C. D. Lancaster, L. Loper, J. F. McCormick, M. J. Meaut, E. W. Morrill, G. E. Park, Collins Phelps, C. W. Wachenfeld, W. A. White.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$90 00

\* Chartered February 11, 1897, as No. 19.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMANDERIES.

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|                                        |          |
|----------------------------------------|----------|
| Total Commanderies.....                | 14       |
| Knights.....                           | 4        |
| Affiliated.....                        | 1        |
| Reinstated.....                        | 3        |
| Dimitted.....                          | 10       |
| Died.....                              | 8        |
| Suspended for Non-payment of Dues..... | 4        |
| Expelled.....                          | 1        |
| Total Membership, 1896.....            | 478      |
| Increase over 1895.....                | 37       |
| Total Dues for 1896.....               | \$633 00 |



# REPORT ON FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, OF MISSISSIPPI :

I have the honor, and the pleasure, as well, to present herewith my Seventeenth Annual Report on Correspondence, in the words, figures and clippings following. In it I have considered, briefly and imperfectly, no doubt, the transactions of most of the Templar Governing Bodies of the world. That they are not all in line, is no fault of ours.

We append a list of those received :

|                             |      |                        |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| Arkansas .....              | 1896 | Minnesota .....        | 1896 |
| Canada .....                | 1896 | Missouri .....         | 1896 |
| California.....             | 1896 | Maine.....             | 1896 |
| Connecticut .....           | 1896 | Nebraska .....         | 1896 |
| Colorado .....              | 1896 | New York .....         | 1896 |
| District of Columbia .....  | 1895 | New Hampshire. . . . . | 1896 |
| District of Columbia.....   | 1896 | North Carolina .....   | 1896 |
| Florida.....                | 1896 | New Jersey .....       | 1896 |
| Georgia.....                | 1896 | North Dakota.....      | 1896 |
| Illinois.....               | 1896 | Ohio.....              | 1896 |
| Iowa.....                   | 1896 | Oregon .....           | 1896 |
| Indiana .....               | 1896 | Oklahoma .....         | 1896 |
| Kansas.....                 | 1896 | Pennsylvania .....     | 1896 |
| Kentucky.....               | 1896 | South Dakota .....     | 1896 |
| Louisiana.....              | 1896 | Texas.....             | 1896 |
| Michigan .....              | 1896 | Tennessee.....         | 1896 |
| Massachusetts and R. I..... | 1895 | Vermont.....           | 1896 |
| Massachusetts and R. I..... | 1896 | Wisconsin .....        | 1896 |
| Maryland.....               | 1896 | Wyoming .....          | 1896 |
| Montana .....               | 1896 | Washington .....       | 1896 |
| West Virginia .....         | 1896 |                        |      |

With these few remarks we take up

## ARKANSAS—1896.

Twent-fourth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Little Rock, April 21st. There were present: R. E. Sir George P. Taylor, Grand Commander; E. Sir Jas. A. Henry, Grand Recorder; the entire staff, 4 Past Grand Commanders, 13 Grand Representatives, 10 Past Commanders, and delegates from 8 Subordinate Commanderies, out of 13.

The address is very short, but well written, and is devoted to local matters. He opens as follows :

*Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Arkansas :*

BELOVED FRATERS—Another year has passed, the closing hour of our Templar year is striking. We can scarcely realize that a year has come and gone since we met in Annual Conclave, yet it is true, how fleeting and transitory are all things earthly ; have we emphasized its meaning by at least trying to live in the discharge of knightly duty, and to govern ourselves by the sublime principles of this magnanimous Order ? If so 'tis well, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap ; " to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted " is only one of the great Truths Templarism teaches. And what a beautiful, well ordered life would we have, if we fully understood and practiced the full meaning of that principle alone. But when we view the whole teaching of our Order ; if we but lived it, none would say aught against it, but we would win the sympathy and admiration of the true, the noble and the good, of every clime, and bind the hearts of those who come after us in the strong bonds of a fraternity as broad as our civilization itself.

In the language of P. G. M. Medole, of New York, " Fraternity never cast a shadow on the home, never wounded a human heart or wronged a human soul. Fraternity is never deaf to the cry of the needy, never blind to the wants of the deserving, and its broad and noble heart ever responds to call back the erring, to lift up the fallen, to aid the distressed and to upbuild the human race."

Sir Knights, let us ever remember we are a fraternity bound together by the most solemn vows, and if any of us have been living outside the Templar duties, let us from now on endeavor to " so improve the remaining span of life, that when our frail and weak bodies may become cold and inanimate, our disembodied spirits may soar aloft to the realms of life and light eternal."

Among his decisions is one that the restoration of a suspended charter restored each member to his former standing, including such as have affiliated with a neighboring Commandery.

We can't see it by those lamps, although the Law Committee and the Body sustained the decision. His dispensations were for sensible purposes.

The proceedings were local. Order in peaceful and growing state. Total membership, 510.

Sir Fred. J. H. Reckon is the author of an excellent report on Correspondence, covering 78 pages, and considering the transactions of 36 Templar Grands in his usual pleasant style. He opens as follows :

SIR KNIGHTS—It hardly seems that a year has rolled by since I had the pleasure of presenting the report on Correspondence for your approval, but it is so, and while it has been a year of general depression and financial distress it is cheering to read that our beloved Order has made, with some few exceptions, fair progress in all the jurisdictions of this great and glorious Union.

Not only has progress been the order of the day, but peace and harmony seem to prevail throughout the Templar hosts.

No burning questions have been up for discussion ; the only subject that seems to have been generally discussed is the question of dependent membership, and on this there is some division of opinion.



Many of the prominent members of the Order have been called to the Grand Asylum above and among them some of the greatest lights in the Templar world.

As you are aware that the compiling of this report is a labor of love I trust that you will throw the mantle of charity over all its shortcomings. It has been written at odd times and perhaps not as deliberately as it might have been if I had more time at my disposal.

Being a labor of love the new Grand Commander cuts off the official head of our brother as a reward for his excellent and faithful service. Well—" 'Twas ever thus."

Sir Reckons' notice of Mississippi for '95 is kind and courteous. He quotes quite freely from Sir French's address and our "Opening Chorus," and in regard to the latter, says: "But, Sir George, do not apologize, for if you begin to do so, I am afraid it will be catching, especially when the apology precedes as good a report as yours." We beg to assure our brother that no apology was intended, as this Committee is not in that line of business.

We regret to lose Bro. Fred. from the Corps, and pray God to bless and keep him always.

R.: E.: George Thornburgh is Grand Commander; E.: Sir Jas. Austin Martin is Grand Recorder; and E.: Sir Oliver Cromwell Gray is Correspondent.

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#### CANADA—1896.

The Thirteenth Annual Assembly of Sovereign Great Priory of Canada was held in the city of London, September 16th. Present: M.: E.: Sir Knight Will H. Whyte, Supreme Grand Master, on the Throne. M.: Em. Sir Knight Daniel Spry, Grand Chancellor. Several eloquent and cordial addresses of welcome were made by the local officials, municipal and Templar, after which the Grand Body was opened and the Committee on Credentials reported 29 Subordinates as being represented.

The address of the Grand Master is an elegant business paper, but is mostly devoted to local matters. Among his dispensations we find the following: "To St. Elmo, No. 22, at Stratford, *to make a serving Knight.*"

If not incompatible with the proprieties, we would like to inquire what a "*serving Knight*" is? He reports the Order in good growing condition, making a net gain of 180.

We note, in the minutes, that a basis of settlement and union between Great Priory and the Encampment of St. John, New Brunswick, has been agreed upon and endorsed by Great Priory, and we expect that in the near future the Encampment will be a constituent of Great Priory.

We also note that Detroit Commandery, No. 1, paid London and Great Priory a visit, and that they were cordially and enthusiastically received, and that everybody had a good time.

Bro. Robertson is, as usual, the author of the Correspondence report, which covers eighty-five pages and reviews the doings of most of Templardom, in his customary courteous and interesting style.

We clip the following from his opening :

In reply to the statement that belief in the Doctrine of the Trinity is not required in the Templarism of the United States, it is asserted that every Templar must be a firm believer in the Christian religion, and that as the dogma of the Trinity is one of the fundamental principles of that religion, every Templar must be a believer in the Trinity. But others assert that the dogma of the Trinity is not one of the fundamental principles of the Christian religion, that there are many bodies of Christians who do not believe in the Trinity, notably the Unitarians. They are certainly believers in the religion of Christ, and we think many of them are in the ranks of the Templars of the United States, although they could not be admitted here or under the British jurisdictions. Some eminent writer asserts that Templarism is broad enough to include all Christians, of whatever denomination or creed, while others would narrow it down to Trinitarians only, and these differences of opinion will probably continue to exist.

Under Pennsylvania, we find this :

From the report of the Committee on the next Triennial at Pittsburg in 1898, it appears that the estimate of their expense for the entertainment of the Grand Encampment and visitors on that occasion is from \$90,000 to \$100,000. What a monstrous waste of money! This enormous sum will be absolutely dissipated in useless extravagance. Surely it is time to call a halt in this matter. Just think of the hundreds of widows and orphans who could be relieved from their distress by all that money.

Which has our unqualified approval—all of it!

We regret the absence of Mississippi from this most excellent report, but the fault was not with our Bro. Robertson.

Grand Master and Grand Chancellor re-elected, and Correspondent as before.

#### CALIFORNIA—1896.

Thirty-eighth Annual Conclave was held in San Francisco, April 23. Present: R.: E.: Sir Edward Spalding Lippitt, Grand Commander, Sir Thomas H. Caldwell, Grand Recorder, 13 Grand Representatives, and delegates from 34 Chartered and 2 Commanderies U. D.

The opening was preceded by what might justly be called Thanksgiving Devotional Offices, preceded by a most beautiful little address by the Grand Commander. As we consider this plan the best plan of all, we copy the entire proceedings:

Previous to opening the Grand Commandery the following impressive exercises were had, in which all the Sir Knights participated and seemed to fully realize the solemnity of the occasion as well as the appropriateness of the ceremonies. The Grand Commander took his station in the East, and addressed the assemblage as follows:

SIR KNIGHTS—I welcome you to this Grand Asylum. We have assembled in the Thirty-eighth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of California.

We are an Order founded upon the Christian religion and the practices of the Christian virtues. We have taken our lessons from that Book, "the great light of Masonry," whose pages glow with the promises of this life and the prophecies of the life eternal. We bear in the front of our marshaled hosts the banner of the Cross, with the inspiring motto, "*In hoc signo vinces.*" For nineteen centuries that symbol, once of servile degradation, but now raised to the symbol of holy triumph, has led the conquering prophets of earth to higher and purer existence.

Though oft obscured by the mists of superstition and bigotry, still high in the empyrean of God's sublime purposes, it has been the sure prophecy of the world's redemption. From it not only has religion caught inspiration, but science has lighted its torch at its holy flame; art has been illumined by its halo, and literature has been purified by its sacred influence. Under its guidance, philosophy has been quickened, history emboldened, society uplifted and women enthroned.

Through the ages the Bible and the cross have been the center of the hot combat with infidelity, paganism and hoary systems of false religion. But out of them all they have come with increased power and dominion, unscathed and unbroken, and high ascendant lead the vanguard of the civilized world in truth, justice and righteousness, while their foes lie strewn in forgotten oblivion. They stand, like our own grand Sequoias, which lift their lofty heads, an emerald censer to the sky, while the wreck of centuries of storm lie mouldering beneath their everliving shade.

The light of the cross is filling the earth with its radiance, gilds the remotest mountain tops, and heralds the universal sway of Immanuel's kingdom. With the prophet of old we can say, "How beautiful upon the mountain tops are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace."

As a part of that sacred host, the defenders of Christian truth and liberty, it is proper that Knights Templar, on occasions of Annual Convocation, should acknowledge Divine guidance, and render thanksgiving and praise for his mercies and protecting care.

I ask your attention, therefore, to a short preliminary of song and devout thanksgiving.

E.: Grand Prelate, you will read from the sacred writings the prophecy concerning Immanuel.

Ex.: Grand Prelate:—

"Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign! Behold! a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel."—Is., vii-14.

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. The Government shall be upon his shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end upon the throne of David and upon His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth and forever."—Is. ix-6 and 7.

Te Deum by the Templar Choir, under the direction of Sir Samuel D. Mayer, Grand Organist, was very impressively rendered.

Ex.: Grand Prelate, you will read the words of Immanuel to His Disciples.

Ex.: Grand Prelate:—

"Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also."—John, xiv-1, 2, 3.

Prayer by the Ex. Grand Prelate:—

Our Father and our God; we come to Thee to ask Thy blessing upon this Conclave now assembled in Thy presence.

Give us, we beseech Thee, wisdom from on high to guide us in our deliberations. Bless Thou those who preside over us, and help us all to do that which is right. Grant that we may so live here that when we shall appear before Thy throne in heaven we may receive the welcome, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

This we ask in the name of the Blessed Immanuel, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer, chanted by the Temple Choir.

Grand Commander Leppits' address, as might be expected, is an able and comprehensive history of his administration. His dispensations were all for proper purposes. From his decisions we clip the following:

*California* Commandery presented the following proposition: "In 1882 Charles Edelman, a Companion Royal Arch Mason, applied to *California* Commandery, No. 1, for the orders of Knighthood and was rejected. Subsequently he removed to the southern part of the State and has been for a number of years a resident of that portion now comprising the Templar jurisdiction of *Santa Ana* Commandery, U. D. He has now made application to *Santa Ana* Commandery, U. D., for the orders of Knighthood, and that Commandery has requested from *California* Commandery, No. 1, a waiver of its jurisdiction over the companion.

Question. What bearing does General Regulation, No. 9, of the Grand Commandery have in this particular case? I answered as follows:

In reply to your question touching the application of *Santa Ana* Commandery, U. D., for a waiver of jurisdiction of *California* Commandery, No. 1, I answer, in my judgment it does not apply. *California* Commandery has no territorial jurisdiction of the Companion. There could only exist a quasi jurisdiction under the alleged law of perpetual jurisdiction, to which our Grand Commandery has strenuously objected. I think all *California* Commandery can do will be by resolution to disclaim any jurisdiction and permit *Santa Ana* Commandery, U. D., to act upon the petition of the Companion.

If the ruling is correct—and no doubt it is—under the laws of California, we can see no call for any action of California Commandery, No. 1. Under our law jurisdiction over a candidate, acquired by rejecting him, is perpetual, but it is not so in the "Golden State."

His visitations were quite general and no doubt were beneficial.

Under "Grievances" we find this:

*Cœur de Lion* Commandery took charge of the burial of Sir Knight W. T. Miller, a member of *Lafayette* Commandery, New York, and upon sending the account to said Commandery it refused to pay it. The correspondence was sent to me and I forwarded the same to E. Sir H. A.

Noble, Grand Commander of New York. With that promptness of Knightly courtesy, which distinguishes that *Em.* Sir Knight, the matter was amicably settled by payment of the claim.

As part of the bill was for a band at the funeral, I called the attention of *Cœur de Lion* Commandery to the matter of funerals of members of a foreign jurisdiction dying within our jurisdiction, urging the greatest circumspection in the expense of such burials unless ordered by the family or the Commandery of which the deceased had been a member. Especial care should be taken in that respect when the Commandery only acts as an escort, or when the burial is in charge of a Blue Lodge. It is very seldom that the employment of a band would be justified, unless requested by the family to be by them paid for. While knightly courtesy should be extended in the funeral rites of a deceased frater who unfortunately dies in our midst, we should have careful regard to the well being of the Commandery to whose jurisdiction he belonged that the best of fraternal relations may continue to exist between us.

In all of which lecture there are cords of sound sense. Under the head of "Grand Encampment," he wades in on the paucity of business done by that concern at "Bosting," but as it never has done any good and has been running a long time, it seems to us that Bro. Leppitt's kick is out of order. He reports that he *borrowed* \$2,500 for the Grand Commandery of California to pay expenses of Boston Memorial, at a low rate of interest! Seems to us that we would have preferred to stay at home to doing the borrowing act. He closes with the following profoundly beautiful and touching Confession of Faith:

While I delight in the perfection of military display and the grandeur of our serried ranks as knightly soldiers, I more delight in the establishment of those grand elements of manhood that we may be indeed true soldiers of Christ.

The waving of plumes, the glitter of arms are but the tinsel of true knighthood. To march in solid column a mighty host to the cadence of many bands is a grand occasion, a glorious sight. But to stand a united host for truth, for all the grand elements of Christian character, to bear aloft the banner of the cross, while our hearts and lives are in accord with its sacred teachings, is a grander sight and worthy our highest effort.

No grander man of the English speaking races exists than Gladstone. Thrice Premier of England, holding in his hand the reins of the greatest empire the world ever saw, familiar with all international, civil and social laws; versed in the Homeric literature of Greece and the history of ancient and modern empires, proficient in the knowledge of the ancient versions of the bible and the patristic literature of the early centuries of the Christian era and the doctrinal battles of the later ages, the ripest scholar of the age, having passed the four score years, the allotted space of human life, yet, with undimmed mental vision, he is now writing in the ripened wisdom of years in favor of the doctrines revealed in the Bible and the assured hopes of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

And so dear brethren, Sir Knights having past the three score and ten years allotted to man and rapidly approaching four score years, from the experience and observation of a long and public life, while the hills of immortality shall rise on the not distant horizon, I desire to say that I have a profound conviction of the truth and saving efficacy in the sublime principles taught in the gospel and reflected in solemn empha-

sis in the work of the Temple. God grant you long life of exalted manhood, loving the Temple and Templar work, that you may win a true Templar reward—a crown of eternal righteousness.

A picture of the R. E. adorns the pamphlet. It does not indicate that his eye has grown dim or that his natural force is at all abated. Long may he live to bless his home and friends.

The proceedings are local. Order in excellent shape. Membership 2,941—a gain of 58.

Bro. William Abraham Davis is the architect of an elaborate report on Correspondence, which, as usual, we find injected into the bowels of the pamphlet. The report covers 119 pages, reviews the minutes of nearly all the Templar governing bodies, including Mississippi for '95, and is good from start to finish. We clip from his opening chorus:

*To the Grand Commandery of California:*

We again submit the Report on Correspondence for the consideration of the Grand Commandery.

The year has been an eventful one in Templar Masonry, perhaps because the discussion of measures of great importance to the Order have been held in abeyance by the expected action of the Grand Encampment at the late Triennial Conclave in Boston.

The nonaction of that body has been a great disappointment to many, and yet there has been manifested a general conservative expression and determination to wait for the result with becoming patience and submission to constituted authority, with the belief that after due deliberation the Grand Encampment must respond to the will of the majority for the benefit of the whole.

As Frater Enoch T. Carson, of Ohio, expresses it, the Templar parade at the twenty-sixth Triennial Conclave was the grandest in the history of Templarism, but as a business assembly the aforesaid Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States was the greatest failure in its history. It was a blank.

Frater Moore, of Alabama, says the Grand Encampment of the United States is the most unsatisfactory forum to carry on any sort of discussion which has ever been seen. The report of the committee and the Grand Master's gavel—they do the business.

Under Minnesota we find this:

Frater Montgomery says: "The question of non-affiliation is troubling our California brethren, and all such are denied all Masonic rights. We only deem them membership rights in Minnesota, hence under the Grand Encampment law *their Commandery membership is not affected.*"

Yes, Frater Montgomery, there is occasion for trouble in the non-affiliation law of the Grand Encampment, as the opinions of the Grand Masters are termed which have been given from time to time; and by the by, no two of which are in thorough accord.

The law of our Grand Lodge and the Grand Encampment, as construed by Grand Master Gobin in the Marysville case, conflict and are irreconcilable. One or the other must give way. Which shall it be? We cannot sit in the Commandery with a non-affiliate because our Grand Lodge prohibits our having any Masonic intercourse with him. The Grand Encampment says he has a right to be there and we can't turn him out. As the very able Law Committee of Mississippi ask, "Now what is to be done? Serve God and Mammon we cannot. Sit in

Commandery with a profane? That is an impossibility. Turn the profane out? The Grand Encampment declares he is as good a Knight Templar as the best of us."

We are with Mississippi on this question. Our condition is identical, and we say with them, the law of the Grand Lodge is supreme and must be obeyed. The non-contributing non-affiliate cannot sit in a Commandery in California, notwithstanding the law of the Grand Encampment permits him to do so, because the highest power in Masonry, the Grand Lodge, forbids it.

All who take a proper view of the proprieties are also with us.

Bro. Davis' review of Mississippi is full, flattering and fraternal. He copies from Bro. French's address, the minutes, including "Short Form of Templar Burial Service" and our report. We would be glad to be able to produce as elegant a paper as any one of Bro. Davis' reports are, but we cannot, you know.

Sir Trowbridge Hyer Ward is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

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#### CONNECTICUT—1896.

Annual Conclave was held in Bridgeport, March 27. There were present: Sir Hugh Sterling, Grand Commander, R. E. Eli. C. Birdsey, Grand Recorder, all the other Grand Officers, 14 Past Grand Commanders, 21 Grand Representatives, 45 Past Eminent Commanders and delegates from 11 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a business paper, as becomes "The land of steady habits," simply giving a *resumé* of his official acts and deliverances. He opens as follows:

The dawn of another year is upon us, and we are met in Annual Conclave to legislate for the future. The past is gone and we have no power to recall that which has been transacted so far as its effect upon the past is concerned, yet, its experiences are yours, and you will not be considered wise if you do not profit from the retrospective view which it is your duty as the representatives of the Templars of Connecticut, to take, as it is ours to furnish the key, whereby the transactions of the year just closed may be opened for your inspection and consideration.

May the Great Captain, under whose banner we are enlisted, inspire our hearts and minds with that love and wisdom which comes from on high, so that all our actions may be for the advancement and upbuilding of our Order.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory of the magnanimous dead. God has been good to them, as He is always, the Angel of Death not being permitted to invade the borders of the Grand Body. He incorporates the letter of resignation of Grand Recorder Birdsey as Correspondent, and as its text indicates the modesty and lack of self-esteem of our brother, and as it is a very uncommon thing for an official to resign, although they do die, sometimes, we copy the letter:

*Sir Hugh Stirling, R. E. Grand Commander, Bridgeport, Conn.:*

You will remember that when accepting the appointment of Committee on Foreign Correspondence at the Annual Conclave, March, 1895, that I made a reservation, in effect, that if I should conclude that the interests of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut would be better subserved by the appointment of another to this position, I should be at liberty to resign.

I have arrived at this conclusion for various reasons which I will plainly state.

I have not sufficient literary ability to write as creditable a report as my predecessor, or the many able Sir Knights engaged in this labor in other jurisdictions. I desire that Connecticut should be in the front rank in the future, as it has been in the past, in this direction. My education has always been on practical lines, and I have had but little experience in literary matters.

I also find that the duties of Grand Recorder, are far greater than I had supposed, and feel that these duties require all the time I ought to devote in justice to other matters, to the interest of the Order.

With thanks for the honors and continual courtesies I have received at your hands, and with my best wishes for the prosperity of your administration and our beloved Order in Connecticut, to both of which I will gladly contribute all in my power, I am,

Very Courteously Yours,

ELI C. BIRDSEY."

We will wager a pint of pecans that his successor made no abler report than he would have done. He made but one decision, and that was correct. His dispensations were for practical objects.

From his conclusion we excerpt the following:

In looking over the field of Templary, we find two questions claiming particular attention in some jurisdictions, to wit: Membership in Lodge and Chapter necessary to retain good standing in Commandery, and the Liquor question.

Happily this jurisdiction has not thus far been called upon to legislate in respect to either of these questions.

We believe that membership in a Masonic Body should be voluntary. Measures to compel affiliation is contrary to the spirit as well as to the first principle of our Ancient Craft, and the ballot should be sufficient to prevent any undesirable or unworthy person from being received into our Order, no matter what particular business he may be engaged in. The character of the man, rather than his occupation, should concern us most.

If the question of profession or occupation of a candidate is to be a qualification, it is difficult to say where the line would eventually be drawn.

We infer, from the last clause, that the R. E. would not be in favor of making saloon keepers ineligible to the Orders, and if we are correct, his ideas of the eternal fitness of things needs reconstruction!

The proceedings were local. Order in good shape. No statistical table is given, hence we cannot tell of the number of members, nor do the proceedings show the age of the Grand Body.

Bro. Albert L. Eugene is the author of the Correspondence, which is full and interesting. Thirty-nine Templar legislatures are reviewed in this report, including Mississippi for 1895, getting five pages. Regarding Grand Commander French's address he says:



Grand Commander French was called upon for no decisions; visited only one Commandery, although received cordial invitations which he could not accept. He granted a dispensation to another, St. Elmo Commandery, to which a charter was granted at this conclave. He compliments Brother DeLap, (Mississippi Correspondent), and smooths his feathers which at times seem to be ruffled as follows:

The summing is all there is of it. Our feathers never get ruffled in these scrimmages. He quotes the "Service at the Grave" because of the novelty to New Englanders of both Lodge and Templar burial service at the grave. It is seldom that it occurs here.

Of our well beloved Bro. Power he says:

Grand Recorder J. L. Power presents a report almost as lengthy as that of the Grand Commander. He seems to have labored in the interest of the Order in Mississippi for more than a quarter of a century and the Grand Commandery has given him of late substantial recognition of his services, and by vote, made him a Life Honorary Past Grand Commander. We note that Mississippi had a prestige within its history for conferring this title but where the authority? We do not for a moment doubt that Sir Power deserves all the good things that his State can confer, but we are something of a stickler for authority for such departures.

Brother Power writes feelingly of the twelve Past Grand Commanders who have passed away during his long term of service. Names them in order that "loving recollections may come to some who listen to the retrospect." He gives the gains and losses in membership in Mississippi for twenty-five years and shows a net gain of thirty for the year last past.

He copies copiously from our report, says some pleasant things of us and adds:

Brother DeLap's views regarding the "Pilgrimage" and "Permission to Invade" hobbies of some of the Grand Commanders are so much in accord with our own as expressed to this Grand Commandery some ten years since, and his strictures so unique and forcible, that we copy in full.

We never doubted the loyal support of *all* our N. E. brethren, after they think the matter over. Bro. Eugene gets up an admirable report and we hate to lose him from the Guild.

Sir Lyman H. Johnson is Grand Commander; Sir E. C. Birdsey is Grand Recorder, and Past Grand Commander Hugh Sterling is Correspondent. We can't see the wisdom of rotation *along here*.

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#### COLORADO—1896.

• Twenty-first Annual at Denver, June 2d, 1896. Present: R. E. Wm. W. Rowan, Grand Commander; E. Sir Ed. C. Parmalee, Grand Recorder; Representatives from 22 out of 24 Subordinate Commanderies, and 8 Past Grand Commanders.

The address is comparatively short, being an epitome of his administration. His dispensations and decisions were in accord with law and sense. Out of 1651 members just 60 attended divine service on Ascen-

sion Day! The query occurs, where were the other 1561? Something rotten about the religious experience of our Colorado brethren. The R. E. gravely remarks: "I hope the good work will go on, and each year your Grand Commander will read with much satisfaction of the increased number that are willing to comply with the principles of our Order." It occurs to us that it will take a long time to secure a majority of them at the present rate of progress.

His visitations were quite general and no doubt resulted in good. He went to "Bosting," of course, and tells us that the Colorado "Headquarters were at the Victoria Hotel, where we kept open house for three days and nights." Will some enthusiastic and *truthful* admirer of the Grand Encampment, oblige us with the information of what "Open House" consists; the bill of fare, including liquid refreshments, and why it is necessary to keep Templar Headquarters open day and *night* on these Triennial occasions. If the answer to the above query is strictly truthful, the cause for the paucity of worshippers on "Ascension Day," and the bold foolishness of referring to the foundation of the Order, will be distressingly apparent. Either drop all reference to the religion of our Lord in connection with Templary, or banish intoxicants from your banquets and your Triennial Headquarters.

The proceedings contain nothing of general interest.

Our good Bro. Orahood again presented the report on Correspondence, in which the transactions of 42 Templar Grand Bodies receive courteous attention—ours for '95 among the number. Bro. O's review of our pamphlet is characteristically full and pleasant. Under Michigan and referring to the Grand Commander of Colorado in '94: "There is nothing in the Statutes of the Grand Commandery of this State that would prevent a member of a Commandery opening a *Bar* in his Hotel," he thus, most effectually, clears the character of Colorado Masons of all reproach along these lines:

We believe the decision ought not to have been made. Our Grand Lodge has legislated on the subject, as follows:

125. It is hereby made the imperative duty of all Lodges to restrain, as far as possible, the Masonic crime of intemperance, by trial and punishment, as the case may require, and to exclude from Lodge and ante-room all intoxicating liquors; and for the faithful performance of these duties they will be held strictly accountable to the Grand Lodge. It shall be unlawful to initiate or affiliate any person engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors.

This has been followed by a number of decisions, approved by the Grand Lodge, making it still stronger. It has been held that a stockholder in an incorporated brewing company is ineligible. In 1888 Grand Master Todd decided:

That not merely is it unlawful to initiate or affiliate any person engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors, but that a Mason, a member of any of our Lodges, who may have started in the business subsequent to the reconstitution of the Grand Lodge, was amenable to the charge of un-masonic conduct, and subject to such penalty as might be inflicted, after due trial and conviction. (See By-Law, 125.)

In 1894, the same year Grand Commander McGaffey made his decision, Grand Master Sanford decided :

*Question :* A brother presents a dimit and petition for affiliation ; the Committee on Character finds that he is the proprietor of a hotel, and keeps a bar in connection therewith. Have we a right to accept him as a member ?

*Answer :* No. (See Grand Lodge By-Law 125.)

The act which the Grand Commander finds nothing in the statutes of the Grand Commandery to prevent, is a Masonic crime under the laws of the Grand Lodge. Our connection with and veneration for Ancient Craft Masonry, and the fact that the proposed act would be a violation of the laws of our Grand Lodge, and make the member liable to expulsion if persisted in, we think ample justification for holding that it should not be allowed by the Grand Commandery.

Even if technically correct, which we contend it is not, we think the decision wrong in principle and morality.

Brother Gerow and the other Correspondents who have severely criticised this decision, and all who have noticed it have done so, with one exception, so far as we now recollect, cannot have any controversy with us personally about it.

Our good friend does not use many words, but what he has to say is all wool and a yard wide.

R. E. Sir Eugene P. Shove, is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—1895.

On January 14th, a Convention of the Commanderies stationed in the District of Columbia assembled under a warrant from the Grand Master and proceeded to organize a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar for that District.

Five Commanderies were represented. The Grand Master was present and started our young sister on her way in good shape.

Total membership 1532. We wish our brethren the largest measure of prosperity and success—if they deserve it, which, no doubt, they will.

Sir Noble D. Larner is R. E. Grand Commander ; Sir I. La Rue Johnson is Grand Recorder. No Correspondent appointed.

November 4th. Four years more of Republican devilment, business depression, hard times, unrest, etc. However, God still reigns over the affairs of our country and all will end well.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—1896.

The First Annual was held in Washington May 11th. R. E. Sir Noble D. Larner, Grand Commander, presiding ; Sir Isaac L. Johnson, Grand Recorder. Five Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address is a short *resume* of a brief administration and contains nothing of special interest to outsiders.

The Grand Master, Sir Warren La Rue Thomas, was accorded such attentions as his official position and high character demanded. The R.: E.: devotes some space to the permanent location of the Grand Encampment and inquires: "Why should such a *great and important* body as the Grand Encampment of the United States, have its headquarters, as it does now, in a trunk?" He puts "Trunk" in *Capitals*! Of course he wants it located at Washington, and this is only natural, but when we reflect that that city is the headquarters of the Congress of the United States, and that both branches of that Body are provided with a saloon attachment, the contents of which receive more attention from many of the members than does the material interests of the country, we are inclined to the opinion that there is enough drunkard mills there now and that it would be better to take Alaska as a permanent home for an institution that has been an unmitigated nuisance and an excrescence upon the Body of Templary up to this day and hour of its life. Better abolish it than to coddle it up—a great sight!

Along the line of the general cussedness of the concern and the character of its legislation, we quote the following from the minutes:

WHEREAS, The Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States provides that no officer or member can be present in a Grand Commandery, unless in full Templar uniform, except by a vote of the body excusing him; therefore

*Resolved*, That the officers and members of this Grand Commandery be excused from appearing in full Templar uniform this evening."

Now, will some admirer of this concern be kind enough to tell us what business it has to say what members of a Grand Commandery shall wear when in attendance on its session? With equal propriety the concern might refuse the subordinates of a State Grand Commandery, the right to entertain the petition of a Companion unless he proved himself to be a member in good standing of *the Episcopal Church*.

The sooner the thing is abolished, the better it will be for all concerned.

Proceedings local. Order healthy. Total membership 1,565. No report on Correspondence.

R.: E.: Sir Frank H. Thomas, is Grand Commander; Sir I La Rue Johnson, Grand Recorder.

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#### FLORIDA—1896.

The Second Annual Conclave was held in Jacksonville, May 14th. There were present: Sir William A. McLean, R.: E.: Grand Commander, Sir John D. Sinclair, Grand Recorder, and the representatives of 5 out of 6 Chartered Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is very brief, but is well written and doubtless contains an epitome of his administration. He opens as follows:

SIR KNIGHTS—The privilege of greeting you as members of the Grand Commandery of Florida is a source of unbounded pleasure to me. Your organization on the 15th of August last was perfected with such unanimity, as to give promise of the most decided success and assured prosperity. Though the youngest member of the great family of Grand Commanderies at the Triennial Conclave, your cordial reception there was of the most gratifying character. While it was not my privilege to be present on the Twenty-sixth Triennial Conclave, I am assured that the interests of the Grand Commandery did not suffer on account of my absence, a majority of the principal officers being present, while the Grand Commander was faithfully and ably represented by our illustrious Sir Knight, William H. Jewell, of Olivet Commandery, No. 4.

He issued few dispensations, and they for legitimate purposes. Proceedings void of general interest. All the offices were elected *unanimously*! Order healthy. No report on Correspondence, although the following resolution and the appointment of the Committee, gives promise of better things in the future:

*Resolved*, That the Grand Commander be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a Standing Committee on Foreign Correspondence, the same to consist of three members of the Grand Commandery, and also that this provision be a standing Regulation of the Grand Commander.

Sir Wilber P. Webster, Grand Commander; Sir William A. McLean is Grand Recorder and Chairman Fraternal Correspondence Committee.

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#### GEORGIA—1896.

Thirty-fifth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Columbus, April 15th. There were present: Sir Jas. K. Orr, R. E. Grand Commander, Sir Sam P. Hamilton, Grand Recorder, all the staff except Grand Generalissimo, 6 Past Grand Commanders, 12 Past Eminent Commanders. and delegates from 10 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is a well written *resume* of his official acts, in which, however, we find nothing of general interest. As to the "Condition of the Order" he has this to say:

Templarism has been described as the "luxurious branch of Masonry." While we have not kept up with the marvelous growth shown in more congested centers of population, I believe that the early return of prosperity, together with the tidal wave of new blood that is pouring into Georgia, will in a very few years show a large increase in our membership. I have had several inquiries from companions who desired to form Commanderies in their respective cities: one of whom rather insisted that I exercise my prerogative and make him a Knight Templar "on sight." I was constrained to reply "there was no royal road to Templarism."

We were not aware that it is a prerogative of a Grand Commander to make Templars "at sight." The exercise of this prerogative by the Grand Master of Masons of Mississippi was condemned by the Grand Lodge as being inexpedient and unwise, although lawful. He made no

decisions. Issued sundry dispensations to ballot, which was right and proper. His visitations were quite general.

Proceedings are local in their references. Order in good shape. Total membership 692, a gain of 9.

Eighty-nine pages of the pamphlet are occupied by the Correspondence report, which is the eighth of our Bro. Roland B. Hall, and like the other seven, is a very good one.

Bro. Hall digests the minutes of 44 Templar governing bodies in his usual courteous and interesting style, Mississippi for 1895 getting her just measure of attention. Under Iowa we find the following:

As something unusual, we note the report of the Committee on Necrology submits a memorial on the death of a lady, the wife of a Templar, and dubs her sister; also, a memorial on the death of a lad of seven years, the son of the Grand Commander. They are both gems of thought and feeling, and do credit to the heads and hearts of the Committee.

While disclaiming any intention of seeking to detract from the beautiful tributes paid their memories, we are forced to ask our Fraters if this is in accord with the traditions and usages of the Order. This precedent, if followed, is apt to lead to grave complications.

All would have been right and proper had the "tributes" been sent to the families in personal interest, and left out of the general records, or minutes. Such tokens of affectionate sympathy are very soothing and comforting to aching hearts and we hope the custom will spread.

Mississippi for 1895 gets two pages in this paper. He refuses to endorse the "Templar Burial Service," adopted at West Point. Here is his verdict:

We are not prepared to give our endorsement to the following Templar burial service. It might very well be abridged. But this is hardly of sufficient length or impressiveness. But our Fraters can judge for themselves.

This is pretty hard on our Fred. to have his Bantam pronounced neither solemn or impressive! He says of Bro. Lewis' sermon that it was "able and eloquent." He closes as follows:

Again we lay aside pencil and shears. But before writing "Finis" to this report we crave the indulgence of our readers for a few moments, in order to present a few statistics.

That the labor of preparing the foregoing pages is no light task you must acknowledge, when you reflect that 6,681 pages of printed matter had to be scanned; some of them, it is true, necessarily hastily. That some items of interest may have been omitted we do not deny. But our aim has been to cull for your edification those only which have appeared of *greater* interest.

From the proceedings reviewed there were in existence 955 Subordinate Commanderies. Of this number 907 were represented at Grand Conclaves. Absent, or unrepresented, 48. The largest membership is that of Pennsylvania, 10,943; the smallest membership, Arizona, 203. The only two Grand Commanderies showing a loss are Missouri 46 and Tennessee 29. The greatest increase was that of Pennsylvania, 349; Ohio a close second with 348. The smallest increase was in Washington, amounting to 2. Arkansas sees her two and goes two better. The largest percentage of increase is credited to Wyoming, 11½ per cent.

Your Reporter is pleased to announce complete harmony throughout the Templar world.

With sincere thanks to our Georgia Fraters for their many favorable encomiums upon our past efforts in this line we hope the foregoing will share a like fate at their hands.

To the Eminent Templars and bright scholars of the "Corps" who may observe us with less partiality than those of our own "household" we say, in the language of the son of the Emerald Isle, "Be aisy, and if you can't be aisy, be as aisy as you can."

With a heart full of love for all who worthily wear the insignia of the Order, we write "Consumatum est."

Courteously and fraternally,

ROLAND B. HALL, Correspondent.

Sir Wm. H. Fleming is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Sam P. Hamilton, Grand Recorder; Sir Roland B. Hall, Reporter.

#### ILLINOIS—1896.

Fortieth Annual was held in Chicago, October 27th. There were present: R. E. Augustus Livingston Webster, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Gilbert Wordsworth Barnard, Grand Recorder. The entire staff, 19 Past Grand Commanders, 34 Grand Representatives, 21 Past Eminent Commanders, and delegates from 63 Subordinate Commanderies. The R. E. opens an excellent address as follows:

Entering, as we are, upon the fortieth year of our existence as a Grand Commandery, it might not be amiss to glance backward to a scene enacted in the Masonic Temple in this city thirty-nine years ago to-day.

October 27, 1857, there convened in the Masonic Temple in Chicago, 83 and 85 Dearborn street, the representatives of three small Commanderies, with a total membership of one hundred and eighty-three Sir Knights, who, acting under the warrant of Grand Master W. B. Hubbard, organized

#### THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF ILLINOIS.

From such small beginnings has grown a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, holding jurisdiction over sixty-six Commanderies, with a membership of ten thousand true and courteous Knights.

Surely we can, with reverent lips, exclaim, "What hath God wrought?" And devoutly acknowledge His guidance and goodness throughout these years of our history as a Grand Commandery.

Of the devoted fraters who met on that day, for the purpose of organizing this Grand Body, to be thereby the better able to bear aloft the banner of our blessed Immanuel, few, alas, remain to grace our conclaves by their honored presence.

To those who still linger on the shores of time, we tender our affectionate and knightly regards.

Those who have laid aside their armor and passed through the portals of the Grand Asylum above, we ever hold in loving remembrance.

In life, "They builded better than they knew."

Between October 27, 1857, and October 27, 1896, a period of time, measured in years, more than the average life of man, has intervened. Thirty-nine years have come and gone. The history of the doings and

growth of the Grand Commandery of Illinois up to the close of the annual conclave in October, 1895, is before you in published volumes. The reports of the official acts of your Grand Commander and Staff for the past year completes the record to the present moment.

Eloquent and appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the Knightly dead. The demise of two excellent ladies, wives of distinguished fraters, is also noted.

His dispensations were all for proper objects. Considerable space is devoted to certain Memorials and Resolutions condemning Turkish persecutions of the Armenians, and asking that the Grand Commander and Grand Master of Templars use their best efforts towards the suppression of these outrages, all of which while very commendable, will we fear, be barren of good results. The only way to make a Turk behave himself is to kill him, and "Great Powers" are so jealous of each other that they would rather see every Christian in Turkey and Armenia slain, than to let the "Sick Man of Europe" die, as he should have done a hundred years ago. This is especially true of England, the Grand Master of which, Mr. Wales, is asked in the resolutions, indirectly, to take a hand in opposition to Turkey. The documents having been submitted to Grand Master Thomas, he replied as follows:

THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, K. T. }  
OFFICE OF THE M. E. GRAND MASTER, }  
MAYSVILLE, KY., Feb. 6, 1896. }

W. LARUE THOMAS, Grand Master.

*A. L. Webster, R. E. Grand Commander, Danville, Ill.:*

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to yours of January 11, enclosing memorial of Sterling Commandery respecting the Armenian troubles, would say, that I have given the matter a great deal of thought and have had some correspondence with some of our leading Sir Knights, trying to devise a proper plan of action.

I find such a diversity of opinion as to what is the proper thing to do—and just how to do it—that I have been unable to adopt a plan as yet.

I feel that we as Knights Templar should do something, and hope we will soon find out just what is best for us all.

Fraternally and courteously yours,

W. LARUE THOMAS, Grand Master.

That is about "what we 'lowed." If we ever got a man in the Presidential Chair that is not afraid of his shadow, it will be an easy matter for this country to say stop! and there are not many nations that would not heed the warning, certainly not the Turks. His decisions were sensible. The address as a whole is an admirable paper but is mostly confined to local matters.

The proceedings contain nothing of general interest. Of course the Order is in a flourishing condition. Total membership 9518, a gain of 132.

The Correspondence Report covers 143 pages, considers the transactions of nearly all the Templar governing bodies in the usual courteous



and kindly style of its distinguished author, Past Grand Commander John Corson Smith. He opens as follows:

*To the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Illinois:*

We herewith present our eighth annual review of the doings of all Templar Grand Bodies with which we are in communication, so far as their proceedings have been received.

Weary though we may have been at times, we nevertheless experienced a pleasure in reading each report—the addresses, the legislation, and reviews of our fraters—and were benefited thereby. May we hope that our review may be as interesting to them?

Few are the questions calling for any special mention in this introduction and we are glad of it. But two seem of any prominence: the first of which is the Grand Encampment law of perpetual jurisdiction, and the earlier it is repealed the better. The claim over a rejected candidate is indefensible. Does a carpenter claim a stick of timber he has received from his lumber merchant? Does an operative mason lay claim to a stone which has never been taken from the quarry and that he has even refused to have turned over from its native bed? Or does a girl have perpetual claim for alimony upon a rejected suitor? As much justice in the one as in the other. The idea of a perpetual claim upon anything never paid for, and rejected when presented, is too absurd for any reasonable person to present and the sooner stricken from the Code the better.

The other question is the penalties of a few Grand Lodges would have follow into Chapters and Commandery, the dropping from the roll of a member in arrears for dues without even the pretense of charges and a Masonic trial. We are in favor of a continuous membership in all the lower bodies to attain membership in the Commandery, but cannot subscribe to punishment and deprivation of all Masonic rights without first giving the frater hearing by his peers.

With this brief introduction we submit our writings in the hope that they may prove of sufficient value to merit a reading on the part of the Sir Knights of Illinois and the attention of the courteous reviewers of other jurisdictions.

We confess our inability to see the analogy between perpetual jurisdiction over a rejected candidate and a carpenter's rejected stick, etc.

The principle underlying the doctrine in question is that the rejection is for cause and that cause is necessarily disreputable, and until the rejectors are satisfied that the unworthiness has been overcome and no longer exists, it is their duty to bar the door and preserve the reputation of the Order unsullied as far as in them lies. We think, however, that a limit of three years, say, would be better than perpetuity.

Bro. Smith is the only Reporter who includes his own bailiwick in his review, and here it is:

ILLINOIS, 1796.

The proceedings of this Grand Commandery having been faithfully written, promptly printed, and immediately distributed by the prince of Records, Sir Knight Gil. W. Barnard, we leave the same for review by our fellow correspondents.

Your good opinions we prize, your disapproval guides us to the right, and your advice we profit by. Spare us not if we are in the wrong, encourage us if weak, and do not fail to note it if we are right. Such counselors are friends and true ones and their approval is our reward.

In continuation of our travels, which have called forth the approval of our fraters in Illinois, and received much commendation from others, we present our Masonic journeyings in Bonnie Scotland.

Then follows fifty-five pages descriptive of Bonnie Scotland, as he saw it, with lots of fine illustrations, all of which adds to the value of an otherwise able paper.

Bro. Smith's attention to Mississippi for 1896 is full, fraternal and appreciated. We copy :

The Grand Captain-General and Grand Prelate were absent, but Sir Knight William G. Paxton, the Representative of Illinois, was on duty.

After the opening in "ample form," Grand Commandery proceeded to the First Methodist Church, where the offices of devotion were observed and the Rev. and Sir Knight Irvin Miller delivered an appropriate and Knightly sermon, after which the Sir Knights returned to the Grand Asylum and the Grand Commander delivered his address.

The address itself is a sermon, so the Sir Knights enjoyed two sermons in one day and ought to be the better—if such Sir Knights as Fred. Speed and Grand Recorder J. L. Power, and the Correspondent E. G. DeLap, can be improved upon.

Sir Knight James A. Hawley, Past Grand Commander, was commissioned Representative of Mississippi. No better selection could have been made than this distinguished frater.

The special committee to whom certain portions of the address was referred, touching the duty of a Templar to have his name "on the church register," and that any Templar who signs a petition asking that any one be permitted a license "to retail vinous or spiritous liquors to be used as a beverage should not be admitted in our asylums" approved of the suggestions, and added to the first "in an Evangelical Church."

Why not have added after the words "any Templar who" the following, "does not have his name on the roll of a prohibition society shall be expelled?" Committee very wisely added the following saving clause, or we should have asked if we are to understand that a man who does belong to an Evangelical Church cannot be a Christian, or a man who signs a petition for a license cannot be deemed a temperate man? But here is the qualifying sentence of the committee, "they are yet constrained to admit that underlying this proposition is the great Masonic principle of 'liberty of conscience, and that it is the privilege of every Mason, laying aside prejudice, on this and other moral questions, to act according to the dictates of his individual conscience, and so pattern his conduct as shall be to the best interest and highest development of the community in which he may live." To that "liberty of conscience" we fully subscribe, and there it better rest.

Regarding the sermon and its beneficial effects we are inclined to think that there is room for improvement in the case of Speed and, possibly, of Bro. Power, and, well, we add no more.

We note our brother's criticism of the report of special committee in its use of the word "Evangelical" and hasten to assure him that Pax—who wrote the report—used the objectionable word unthoughtedly and without any intention of excluding the Universalist and other Christian Churches from the communion of the Saints. Pax is not as

familiar with Theology as he is with Astronomy, and Phineas has no more idea of the intricacies of Ecclesiasticism than the devil has of experimental religion, and this writer did not feel well enough to prepare the report. Pax had no intention of barring the celestial gates against Bro. Gil. Bernard because he is an Universalist, nor against Bro. John Corson because his is a Nothing-Arian. If either one of you, or any others, are in such a state of mind as to enjoy a place and surroundings of holiness and praise, the gates will stand ajar for your entrance.

Our Bro's. notice of our last effort is pleasant and kind. He agrees with us in some things, quietly dissents in others, but never is harsh or unkind.

R. E. Sir Edward Coleman Pace is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### IOWA—1896.

The Thirty-third Annual was held in the Iowa Templar Park, Spirit Lake, July 14.

There were in attendance, Sir Thos. B. Lacey, Grand Commander; Sir Alfred Wingate, Grand Recorder, and the representatives of 32 of the 56 Subordinate Commanderies; only a little more than half. This is a surprise indeed, and the query is natural and pertinent: "Where are the other 24? and what was the matter with them?" If we had such a place for our Conclaves as do our Iowa brethren, we would all go—rank and file—male and female, and have a *good* time.

The Grand Commander's address, like all literary productions of Iowa Templars, is an excellent paper. Proper tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the Templar dead both of his own and sister Commanderies.

Referring to new Commanderies he says:

In this connection we desire to state that not a single petition for a dispensation to form a new Commandery has been received during the year. Personally, this is a gratifying condition of affairs; the impression that possibly we now have too many Commanderies in our jurisdiction prevails in the minds of many of our Sir Knights. It certainly were wiser, and of more general good to our Order, to rather strengthen existing Commanderies than to weaken them by forming new ones in advance of reasonable necessity; in fact, the welfare of our Commanderies already established should be of paramount importance.

Which strikes us as being sound sense. We also clip the following:

Notwithstanding the general financial depression which has prevailed, not only within our own State, but also throughout the entire United States, our growth for the year 1895 has been very satisfactory. The returns of our Subordinate Commanderies show a total increase of four hundred and fifty-three (453); that a total decrease of two hundred and eighty-three (283) was sustained, leaving a net increase of one hundred and seventy (170) for the year. On the face of our reports we show

fifty-eight (58) Commanderies, but as number twenty (20), at Clarinda, and number forty-six (46), at Malcom, ceased to exist several years ago, we have but fifty-six (56) active Commanderies. Of these fifty-six (56) Subordinate Commanderies, nineteen (19) show a decrease in membership; three (3) have just held their own; the remaining (34) had an increase. We trust that another year will show a larger number of Commanderies having an increased membership.

The Grand Commander refers to the delights of "Templar Park," and we copy General Order No. 4, relating thereto :

#### APPENDIX F.

##### " GENERAL ORDER NO. 4.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF IOWA, }  
 " APARTMENTS OF GRAND COMMANDER, }  
 COUNCIL BLUFFS, June 15th, 1896. }

*" To the Eminent Commanders, Grand Captain General, and Sir Knights of Iowa :*

"The Thirty-third (33d) Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Iowa will be held at Templar Park, Spirit Lake, Iowa, beginning at 10 o'clock A. M. Tuesday, July 14th, 1896, and continue four (4) days.

"The apartment building, containing ninety-six (96) sleeping rooms, is in charge of Sir Knight George W. Bever, Grand Captain-General, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to whom all applications for quarters, price enclosed, should be addressed.

"A charge of two dollars (\$2.00) is made for each room during the week of the Grand Commandery conclave (Festal week); no charge is made for rooms either before or after Festal week.

"As quite a number of the rooms have already been assigned, it is advisable to make early application, because a large attendance is anticipated, and those who apply first will be the first served. The rooms which have been assigned will not be held for persons beyond the arrival of trains on Tuesday evening; they will then be re-assigned to whoever may apply for them.

"Those occupying rooms in the apartment building must provide themselves, as heretofore, with blankets, sheets, pillows, towels, soap, wash bowls, and other like conveniences. The rooms are furnished with two (2) spring cots, two (2) chairs, a stand, and clothes hooks; nothing more.

"Arrangements have been renewed with Sargent Bros., of Spirit Lake, to transport persons from the depots to Templar Park at twenty-five cents (25c) each; also the baggage at the same reasonable rates. The same rates will prevail in leaving Templar Park. In alighting from cars at Spirit Lake enquire for Sargent Bros.' conveyance and you will be taken care of.

"The dining-room at Templar Park will be in charge of H. E. Wormley, who provided so well for us last year. The price for table board will be the same as last year—viz.: fifty cents (50c) for single meals, one dollar and twenty-five cents (1.25) per day where persons remain four (4) days, and seven dollars (\$7.00) per week. The dining room will be run for a time previous to and after the conclave. Mr. Abell, manager of Hotel Orleans, has made a rate to Sir Knights and their families of two dollars (\$2.00) per day, two (2) persons in a room, or two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per day, one (1) person in a room; children at one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) these rates.

"The steamer Queen will make regular trips on the lake, stopping at Templar Park, and in addition an electric launch will make half-hour trips between Templar Park and Hotel Orleans. A weekly ticket, good for passage between Templar Park and Hotel Orleans, will be sold at one dollar (\$1.00), good on either boat, and can be obtained at the hotel office. The ladies' band, of Eldora, Iowa, composed of Masons' and Knights Templars' wives and daughters, which enlivened us with music and a varied entertainment last year, has been again engaged, and will discourse sweet music during Festal week.

### PROGRAMME.

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 1896.

3:00 P. M.—Devotional services conducted by Rev. J. W. Geiger, Eminent Grand Prelate.

MONDAY, JULY 13TH, 1896.

General Preparation Day.

TUESDAY, JULY 14TH, 1896.

9:00 A. M.—Drill.  
 10:00 A. M.—Opening of the Grand Commandery.  
                     General recreation and Band Concert.  
 3:00 P. M.—Ladies' organization to be effected in Asylum.  
 7:00 P. M.—Dress Parade.  
 8:30 P. M.—Grand Officers' Reception.  
 10:00 P. M.—Fireworks.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15TH, 1896.

9:00 A. M.—Drill.  
 10:00 A. M.—Session of the Grand Commandery.  
                     General recreation and Band Concert.  
 7:00 P. M.—Dress Parade.  
 8:30 P. M.—Complimentary Hop at Hotel Orleans.  
 8:30 P. M.—General Social at Templar Park.  
 10:30 P. M.—Fireworks.

THURSDAY, JULY 16TH, 1896.

9:00 A. M.—Drill.  
 10:00 A. M.—Session of the Grand Commandery.  
                     General recreation and Band Concert.  
 7:00 P. M.—Dress Parade.  
 8:30 P. M.—Ladies Social.  
 10:30 P. M.—Fireworks.

FRIDAY, JULY 17TH, 1896.

9:00 A. M.—Drill.  
 10:00 A. M.—Public Installation of officers and final session of the Grand Commandery.  
                     General recreation and Band Concert.  
 7:00 P. M.—Dress Parade.  
 8:30 P. M.—General Social.

"The drill provided for in the programme will be under the command of Sir George W. Bever, Grand Captain-General.

"The fire-works will be under the management of Sir E. Olin Soule, Past Grand Commander.

"Sir Knights desiring any further information will address Sir

George W. Bever, Grand Captain-General, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Sir Alf. Wingate, Grand Recorder, Des Moines, Iowa, or the Grand Commander, whose address, after July 1st, will be Spirit Lake, Iowa.

"T. B. LACEY, Grand Commander.

"Attest: ALF. WINGATE, Grand Recorder.

From the minutes we clip the following as being something decidedly out of the usual rut, although entirely proper, very beautiful and pathetic:

TO THE R. E. GRAND COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Your Special Committee on Memorials submit this tribute to the memory of

MRS. JOSEPHINE C. PEDDIE.

Born in Juneau, Wis., September 16th, 1857.

Died in Emmetsburg, Iowa, February 22nd, 1896.

It was with the profoundest sorrow that the friends and fraters of our Brother Sir Knight Alex. Peddie, Eminent Grand Sword-Bearer of this Grand Commandery, learned of the death of his beloved wife. But a short year ago she was among the foremost of that company of select ladies whom we all feel we could ill spare from the pleasant hours of our annual outing. Her voice was always to be heard in cheerful ringing notes; her face was always wreathed in smiles of kindly recognition for those who with her had come to think of this place as a Templar family reunion. How quickly all life's plans can be thrown into sad and helpless confusion. Though we now stand in all the pride and strength of manhood, soon, all too soon for the loved ones around, comes the messenger who finally comes to all. From the periodicals of her home city we glean a few incidents of her life, here given.

The Order seems to be fairly prosperous. Total membership 4343, a gain of 170.

A picture of the Iowa Correspondent, Rev. Dr. J. C. W. Coxe, is used as a frontispiece to the Correspondence report. Our clerical brother looks like he might be a wide-awake sort of a fellow, but it is impossible for us to determine, from the picture, to what church he belongs. He doesn't look meek enough for a Methodist, is too wide-awake for a Baptist, hardly pompous enough for an Episcopalian, hence we class him as a Presbyterian. He gets up a good report and doubtless preaches good sermons. The report under consideration covers 60 odd pages. Considers the transactions of most of the Grand Bodies in a pleasant and entertaining style.

Under Maine we find this:

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir Stephen Berry began his twentieth annual report "in midsummer, when the grass grows green, swinging in hammock on a veranda, under a leafy oak. The thermometer is at ninety in town, but the westlin' wind blowing across the cool waters of Casco Bay, and the rippling murmur of the waves upon the shore below, bring a refreshing sense of coolness. Over across on the opposite island is where Fisk, of Kentucky, spends his summers when he comes North, and here is where Grand Master Dean used to anchor in his yachting days, when he came back from Bar Harbor. Beside the hammock is the big rustic chair in

which Connor, of Tennessee, used to sit and look across the bay, wondering if it could be possible that the whole country was sweltering under a hot wave, and yet be so comfortable here. It seems but the other day that he came strolling over the grassy road through the mowing field, and along the bank where the Indians in old times held their feasts, and now his genial voice is hushed forever, and the birds sing over his grave where he lies sleeping below Lookout Mountain.

"So it ever is. Bright spirits come from unknown space, briefly cross our orbits, and go out, we know not whither, and they never pass this way again; but they leave a flash of radiance on their paths which never fades from our lives."

Could anything be more exquisite than this delightfully little etching?

Scarcely! Under Montana these:

Sixty-eight pages of wit and wisdom from the pen of the only and original Cornelius Hedges, frater beloved, Grand Recorder, and a host of good things more. Breezy, brainy, wide-awake, loyal, devoted, enthusiastic—he could not be dull if he tried, and he'll not be disposed to even try while the Turk rules in Judea, and so much of good waits to be done in the world. We delightedly clasped his hand in Boston; we renew our greetings and "God bless you!" to-day. Pen work is this of his—pen work, and head work, and heart work, too! Iowa (1895) is accorded two pages. He is surprised that so few Commanderies were represented, and would "think whole Commanderies would go, and take along their tents and camp equipage. It would be a pretty sight to see those canvas villages scattered over the park, and gallant knights on gaily caparisoned steeds running a tilt for the prize—their ladies' smiles." Well, we should smile to see those mounted knights, whose "tilt" would be with a tree, which it would require skillful horsemanship to avoid. All the same there was some fun indulged in at the park, Frater Hedges, as you rightly surmise.

We regret the absence of Mississippi from this admirable report, but we know the fault was not with him. It would be a blessing if our pamphlet did not take so long to print.

We suggest to the Dr. that he is too lavish in the use of "Frater." Bro. sounds better and Bro. Callahan of Kansas could understand it.

Our old friend Sir Thos. R. Ercanbrack is G. C.; Alf. Wingate, Grand Recorder, of course, and Dr. Coxe, Correspondent.

What has become of our old and valued friend, Dr. and P. G. C. Guilbert?

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#### INDIANA—1896.

The Forty-Second Annual Conclave was held in the city of Indianapolis, April 15th. There were present: R. E. Walter M. Henderson, Grand Commander; E. Sir William H. Smythe, Grand Recorder; all the Grand Officers, except Grand Prelate and Junior Warden, 14 Past Grand Commanders, about 100 Past Eminent Commanders and three Representatives from each of the *thirty-seven* Subordinate Commanderies, also 26 Grand Representatives, including ours.

The Grand Commander's address is a business paper, well written, but mostly local in its references. We excerpt:

I am very much pleased to say that, notwithstanding the general depression of the times, we have had quite a healthy growth this year within our jurisdiction. We have in all three thousand four hundred and ninety-three members—a net gain of ninety-nine Sir Knights. But while we are rejoicing in our prosperity, let us not forget that the Angel of Death has been within our midst, and his summons has been answered by fifty of our esteemed fraters, among whom was Past Grand Commander Andrew H. Hamilton, who died at Fort Wayne, May 11, 1895. He was not affiliated.

Under “dispensations” we find the following, which we do not understand:

On December 21, 1895, I received a communication from Bluffton Commandery, No. 38, asking for a dispensation for immediate action upon the petitions of two Companions; also to be allowed to confer the Orders without uniform. I answered that a dispensation would be granted for immediate action on petitions if it were a case of emergency, but it was not within my power to grant the other request, as much as I would like to have done so, the Companions being over seventy-nine years old, and Masons for over forty years. The statutes make no exceptions.

It occurs to us that if those venerable Companions had taken forty years to find out that it would be a good thing to join the Order of Knights Templar, that their measure of intelligence is not high enough to justify any special concessions in their behalf, hence the non-compliance with the request was the right thing to do. The case is similar to that of an old man who has wasted his substance of youth and manhood in the service of the devil and then, when his sun of life is nearing the western horizon and about to set in eternal night, he offers the dregs of his existence to a merciful Saviour in exchange for an eternity of blessedness. How infinite the compassionate pity, how profoundly merciful and good must our Divine Master be to accept such a proposition.

From “Decisions” we quote the following:

5. I am requested by the Eminent Commander of Terre Haute Commandery, No. 16, to submit the following and ask your decision:

1st—The Commandery will open at noon, August 24th, preparatory to making a pilgrimage to Boston, as you have so graciously permitted. 2d—The Commandery will remain open, and under the control of the officers until their return from Boston, perhaps two or three weeks. 3d—The stated Conclave falls on August 31st, while the Commandery is open, but most of the officers and members absent from Terre Haute on the pilgrimage. It is important that some business should be transacted at said stated Conclave. 4th—There will be present in Terre Haute at the time the Generalissimo, several Past Commanders, and more than a quorum of members; also the Recorder.

*Question 1.* Can the latter named convene and transact business while the Commandery is open and absent from the city?

*Question 2.* If so convened will they formally open or transact business under the special Conclave of August 24th?

*Question 3.* Can the same Commandery have two Conclaves open at the same time?

EDWARD GILBERT, P. E. C.



*Answer :*

*Em. Sir Gilbert :*

DEAR SIR AND FRATER—According to your statement, on August 31, 1895, the time for the stated Conclave of your Commandery, the Commandery open and under charge of the proper officers will be out of the city. That being the case, the officers and members who may remain at home can not open the Commandery. The Commandery is open and out of the city. A Commandery can not hold two Conclaves at the same time in different places.

Courteously yours,

WALTER M. HINDMAN, Grand Commander.

All of which strikes us as being rather unique. Had we been in the place of the Generalissimo, we would have called the Commandery together, transacted its business, closed it and said "nothing to nobody and nobody to nothing!" Can't see any sense in neglecting business for play.

Portraits of the present Grand Commander, Bro. Durbin and Grand Recorder Smythe adorn the pamphlet.

It cost Indiana over \$3,000 to go to "Bosting" and stay there three days!—\$1,000 a day! and for what?

From the report of the Law Committee we clip the following in regard to the decision quoted above:

In considering decision No. 5, the Committee report that in their opinion there is no authority for opening a Commandery for the purpose of an excursion or journey. The Commandery as a body being absent from the jurisdiction by official permission of the Grand Commandery, no business can lawfully be transacted by the members remaining at home.

NICHOLAS R. RUCKLE,  
SAMUEL B. SWEET,  
HENRY H. LANCASTER,  
EDWIN D. PALMER,  
HENRY G. THAYER,  
WALTER VAIL,  
EPHRAIM W. PATRICK,  
IRVIN B. WEBBER,

Committee.

Which was adopted by the Grand Commandery.

Notwithstanding the long list of eminent names attached to the above and the fact that their report was adopted by the Grand Body, we are compelled to dissent in toto from the finding, and for reasons that are so apparent that it is useless to state them, save to say that if there is no authority to open the Commandery for the junketing trip, it follows, naturally, that it is perfectly competent for the second officer, who remains at home, to open and transact the business of the Commandery. If the entire body was away, or all of the first officers, *then* the finding would be correct, but such was not the case.

A Triennial Committee was appointed to get ready for the blow-out at Pittsburg.

A resolution was adopted in the interest of the Armenians.

It is a pity the Christian nations are so utterly selfish that they will allow these things—the massacre of the Armenian Christians—without such a vigorous and stern protest, in the shape of shot and shell as will stop it for all time to come.

Portraits of Past Grand Commanders from 1854 to 1896, are an elegant part of the pamphlet. There are thirty-four of them and they are, without exception, splendid looking men.

Correspondence covers 128 pages, reviews forty-three Templar Legislatures and is the work of Past Grand Commander N. R. Ruckle. We copy the following from his opening chorus :

Some reviewers, as it were, sitting serenely on High Olympus, judge the world below without concern; others grace every page with words of courtesy and gracious titles of esteem. The writing of a review is, to many, a labor of love, and to an equal number a task of dogged perseverance. A few write for honor, many for duty; none for profit. Many bear in mind the friendships to be gained and the distinction to be earned; all write with the belief that their labors are a benefit to the Craft.

A system of judicious extracts often seems to be the favored plan; others quote only to criticise, and lie in wait for the hasty decision and the ill-considered argument. One sets out plainly the history of each Conclave, displaying neither praise or censure; the other finds on every page a topic for condemnation or discussion. Again, the opening swell of sentiment of the Grand Commander's address, the pathos of his lament for those departed, or the well arranged sentences of the peroration are irresistible temptations to fill up the pages which custom or the Grand Recorder has allotted to the reviewer.

To one reviewer all in Templarism is elevating. The good cheer and knightly greetings of the Triennial, the grand parade, the noisy and brilliant receptions, the music, the crowded streets, the old friendships renewed, the new ones established, the hearty comradeship everywhere, are an exhilaration and inspiration, and he sees the Order growing to a strength and dignity beyond compare. The other sees the "danger in the flowing bowl" and finds the "cross" and "welcome," where no one else looks for it, over the door of the saloon, and glances at every besmirched creature he sees on the streets to find among her pitiful finery a Templar charm; he feels that the world grows old and wicked, that the valiant Order is swollen with corruption and tainted with hypocrisy, and the judgment day should be close at hand.

The reports, all written by men of ability and Templar standing, cover a wide range of literary ability, and evidence different qualities of temperament and temper in the writers. As a rule, they are written in dignity and sincerity; all with a high sense of honor, and with a desire for the advancement of the best interests of the Order.

It is not difficult for us to find our place—or rather the one to which we are assigned by the reviewer—and we are ready to accept and choose it. We much prefer the place occupied by the pessemist, to that held by the optimist as recorded in the third paragraph. It is possible that the latter is generally too drunk to see the "Cross" and "Welcome" over saloon doors, and he is much more likely to glance at the aforesaid "besmirched creatures" than is the former. His review of Mississippi, for 1895, is quite full and semi-fraternal, when he comes to our report.

He reads our remarks anent the *demi-monds* being decked in Templar badges on Triennial occasions, with regret, says he knows all about the boys, &c., and has not seen anything of the sort. We have attended one, saw nothing of the kind ourselves, but read in a reputable masonic journal a statement that these things were so in New Orleans, and have never had any doubt of the truth of the charge or of the continuance of the performance at each recurring Triennial. You may get ten thousand Methodists together, i. e., members of that church, for a blow-out and there will be enough black sheep to disgrace the whole crowd, and the rule applies to Templars as well. We are sorry, but "*Magna est veritas et prevalebit.*"

R. E. Sir Winfield T. Durbin is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

#### KANSAS—1896.

The 27th Annual Conclave was held in Lawrence, May 12th. There were present: R. E. Robt. E. Torrington, Grand Commander ; Sir Andrew M. Callahan, Grand Recorder, the entire staff, six Past Grand Commanders, one Past Deputy Grand Commander, 48 Past Eminent Commanders, 18 Grand Representatives, and delegates from 37 Subordinate Commanderies.

V. E. Sir W. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, was also present and was the recipient of courtesies becoming his high office and personal worth.

The Grand Commander's address is a masterly paper. We copy a part of his opening chorus :

For the twenty-seventh time it is our privilege to assemble in annual conclave, to recount the deeds of the past year, and to lay plans for the future. As I look back over the brief period for which you called me to this office, I cannot avoid expressing my profound gratitude to the Giver of all Good for the watchful care he has exercised over us, and the spirit of harmony and good will with which the year has been crowned. To me, it has seemed that one of the sublime forces of this age of wonders is Templar Masonry, which is exerting its elevating influence in every department of our life. Amidst the strife of sects, and the din of theological controversy, the Knight Templar has shown his loyalty to God by his efforts for man's improvement, and as humble worshipers at the shrine of the once despised, but now risen and ascended Nazarene, we have lovingly shown our appreciation of that masterly heroism which lives in the best thought and inspires the sweetest charity of our age. While changes may be taking place in theories of social life and methods of political government, we, as Knights of the Holy Temple, have but one grand object before us, the exaltation of the Redeemer of the world, and the larger currency of those truths which broaden human thought and sweeten human life.

We have not invented a single new art, but we have elevated all art. We have not discovered any method by which to photograph hidden objects in the dark recesses of the human body, but we have cast rays of purer, brighter living into darkened lives, and the world understands its

secret forces better in the brilliant rays of Templar masonry. As Knights Templar, we represent an institution which has been a source of hope and comfort to millions in the days gone, which has inspired men with higher purposes and given them victory over selfishness and sin, and thus to-day is one of the brightest object-lessons before the world to teach the exalted principles of fraternity, courtesy, and beneficence.

In these higher orders of masonry we have built a fire which has lighted up many dark experiences, has generated the genial warmth of friendship, and has moderated the cold temperature of misfortune and trouble. It seems to me to-day that one of the leading objects of an annual conclave like this should be to gather around this fire and receive the comfort, hope and peace which spring from loyalty to truth and an unswerving devotion to each others' interests in the spirit of friendship and brotherly love, as well as knightly courtesy and good will. It is in the light of these sentiments that I greet you to-day, at the beginning of this annual conclave.

If Templary has done, in Kansas, or anywhere else, anything to justify the eulogy our brother has paid it, in the above, we are glad. If it is entitled to half the credit he gives it, it is a mighty good second to the church of God as an elevator of the human family, if, indeed, it does not surpass it. We are inclined to the belief that the cold facts of history do not sustain our brother in his lofty optimism. We find this in regard to our old friend and Bro. Bassett and would like to know what the matter is? Of course he has our sincere sympathy in any trouble or sorrow which may have overtaken him.

R. E.; SIR OWEN W. BASSETT.

We wish to express our sympathy with this distinguished Sir Knight of Kansas in the storm of trouble and suffering that is sweeping across his life, and assure him that our hearts are around and about in the darkness and anxiety of the trying ordeal through which he is passing. It has been my privilege to render him all the assistance in my power, and it is hoped that he may fully realize that the Sir Knights of Kansas duly appreciate his eminent services in the years of his strength, and would ever extend to him the knightly courtesy and kindly help which make life worth living in this world. We sincerely commend him to King Immanuel, who is the Templar's only hope and deliverer.

He made no decisions and his dispensations were for sensible purposes.

The proceedings were local. Order in excellent shape. Total membership 3,247—a gain of 71.

Correspondence covers 137 pages, reviews the minutes of forty-four Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for '95 among the rest, and it is the good work of Grand Recorder Callahan.

Bro. Callahan's review of Mississippi is full and fraternal. He has some pleasant words for this Committee, for which we are grateful. He also accuses us of parting our name in the middle, which is not true. We used to do so when we had less sense, but that was long ago. Bro. Power is to blame for the page three reference. Kindly turn over and see how the report is signed.

Under the head of "Excerpts and Comments" he has collected the remarks of many of the correspondents upon what appears to be the most vital questions under discussion and arranged them under the various headings. He commences with "Non-affiliation" and prefaces his clippings with his own opinion, which, by the by, is as good as the best.

The laws of Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and California Grand Lodges deprive a non-affiliated Master Mason of all the rights and benefits after a certain length of time—generally one year. Yet their laws contain the inconsistency of permitting this suspended brother to apply for membership while in this condition; thus recognizing his dimit that they have declared died of old age!

In some of the jurisdictions this disability is claimed to affect their standing in the Commandery. Where the Grand Lodge law declares the non-affiliate suspended from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, virtually expelling him without trial, we have no doubt that the Commanderies in that Grand Jurisdiction must obey the unjust law. But we give what others say about it:

We would like to quote all the balance, but lack the space. Then comes "Templarism," "The Trinity," "Perpetual Jurisdiction." Bro. C. believes in it. "Where a Knight may Affiliate," "Exemption from Dues," "Increased Representation in the Grand Encampment."

We copy his conclusion and leave our Bro. of Kansas with regret:

At last our journey is ended. Our race has been run. Whether successful or not is for you to determine. Much of it has been written while enduring great physical pain—patriotism, in 1861 to 1865. But if we have given you an insight into the doings of the Templar world, and have made one point in the elevation of this Christian Order, we are paid for the effort.

We have classified under separate headings some of the more important subjects, and given the views of some of the able Correspondents and other able and distinguished Masons.

From commendations and fraternal words from members of our own Grand Commandery and friends and members of the Guild concerning our first effort, last year's report, we return our heartfelt thanks.

Courteously yours,

A. M. CALLAHAM, For the Committee.

Bro. C. gets up one of the best reports in the lot, and would have accorded it more space, but for the fact that we are suffering with a toothache in the small of the back.

Sir William C. Holmes is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

#### KENTUCKY 1896.

The Forty-ninth Annual, at Richmond, May 27. Present: R. E. Sam H. Stone, Grand Commander; E. Sir Lorenzo Dow Croninger, Grand Recorder; a long list of Grand Representatives, including ours, Bro. R. H. Thompson, and delegates from 23 Subordinate Commanderies. An

address of welcome, Devotional Offices and an eloquent sermon were the opening features of the session. The address is a business paper.

His decisions are in accord with the laws of the Grand Encampment, which concern properly has or should have nothing whatever to do, the matters at issue being purely domestic in their character.

One of the Commanderies, Lexington No. 2, in the exercise of a right, inherent in itself, presumed to spend but a small amount for banquets in conferring Red X, and appropriate the money thus saved towards equipping the candidate, up to the sum of \$25.00, which is half the fees charged for the Orders. This was construed by the Grand Commander as in direct conflict with the law of the Central Excrescence and ordered it stopped. All the correspondence on the subject is included in the address and the whole matter turned over to the Grand Body for final adjudication.

Here is one of his decisions that has the semblance of logic and justice, but also of something unsavory and undesirable :

Chas. F. Hill was expelled by his Lodge, and the finding was approved by the Grand Lodge ; but afterwards, by action of the Grand Lodge, he was restored to all the rights and privileges of Masonry. Now, while this restoration of the Grand Lodge did not make him a member of his original Lodge, yet it removed any disability which would prevent him from being a member of a Commandery ; therefore, under the Section above quoted, a certificate by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge filed with the Recorder of his Commandery restored him to good standing and membership in that Commandery.

The same rule that obtains in the Grand Lodge should govern in the so-called higher bodies, and membership should not be received there except by petition and ballot.

His dispensations were all for proper purposes.

We dissent from his assertion that the law requiring petitions to lay over for 30 days is certainly a good one, as, in our judgment, such matters as these should be left to the good judgment of the Subordinate Commanderies, where it belongs. The rule is all right in the Blue Lodge, but when a man is made a Master or Royal Arch Mason, he is no longer a " Profane," and is entitled to that measure of consideration usually accorded to members of the same family by each other.

Considerable space is devoted to the Grand Encampment at Bosting. \$1,000 was appropriated for that blow-out, all of which was spent except \$6.80. This is better than a deficit, but it was a heap of money to waste. He sends up the following plaintive wail and recommendations :

I have but one criticism to make on the action of our Commanderies on that occasion, and that is the fact that all did not unite in one entertainment for the benefit of the State. I consider that it would have been vastly better to have had united action on the part of every Templar coming from this State, as well as from every organized Commandery attending that Triennial, in a concerted effort to entertain for the State, and not for individual Commanderies. And especially do I think that those Grand Officers who were present should have devoted more

time in assisting the Grand Commander in his attempt to have a Kentucky entertainment.

Several of the Grand Officers who were in Boston did not report to me; or make their presence in the city known in any official way; and, unless the Commanderies of this jurisdiction have more united action, and follow the example of some of our neighboring States—Ohio, for instance, where the individual Commanderies were sank out of sight in the attempt to make their State entertainment a successful one. I would respectfully recommend that this Grand Commandery cease its appropriations for the purpose of such entertainments, and allow the Commanderies to provide for their own entertainments. Either this should be done, or all entertainments of the various Commanderies should be prohibited and all compelled to unite in one entertainment for the benefit of the Grand Commandery.

We are somewhat at a loss to imagine what they had at the "Entertainment?" We note the cost to have been \$600.00, which is a considerable sum to spend for tangle-foot, of the different brands, in one evening.

We find, in the minutes, an appropriation of \$200.00 to Bro. Woodruff, as salary, Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

The Grand Treasurer's account shows a shortage of \$279.00, which amounts to nothing in as wealthy a bailiwick as is theirs.

The Order is in a healthy condition. Total membership, 1914, a gain of 19.

The Correspondence is again the finished work of Past Grand Commander Chas. R. Woodruff; reviews the minutes of 46 Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1895, included, covers 130 pages, is all wool and warranted to wash. Seeing he gets a salary of \$200.00 per annum for preparing it, it ought to be good.

Bro. Woodruff's attention to our pamphlet is full, fraternal and courteous. He quotes largely from the address of Grand Commander French, but makes no comments. Regarding this Committee he says: "We trust that our dear friend has fully regained his health, as we see no tokens of 'dyspepsia' in the cheering report before us, so we most sincerely wish for him

An old age serene and bright,  
And lovely as a Lapland night."

Thank you, Bro. Chas., our health is much improved and the Lord has given us more grace and a sense of His acceptance of our devotion to Him, which accounts for the sunniness of the report. The dyspepsia still abides with us.

May God bless our brother and be very gracious to the Templars of Kentucky.

Sir Reg. H. Thompson is R. E. Grand Commander; Recorder and Correspondent as before.

## LOUISIANA—1896.

The Thirty-third Annual Conclave was held in the city of New Orleans, February 14th. There were present: Sir M. L. Scovill as R. E., Grand Commander, Sir Richard Lambert, Past Grand Commander, Grand Recorder, 15 Past Grand Commanders, 6 minor Past Grand Officers, 19 Grand Representatives and delegates from 4 Subordinate Commanderies. Grand Commander Buck being a member of Congress and absent on duty, his address was read by the Grand Recorder. It is a short but well written *resume* of his administration which was uneventful. We excerpt from his opening:

Our *Heavenly Master* has been good to us: he dispenses sorrow as well as joy: death as well as life: all in the end mingling in everlasting peace—so that there is no permanent suffering. Yet, though this is our faith and our hope—when death comes it means affliction and sorrow: it leaves an aching void in our hearts; it severs tender chords and carries with it to the darkness of the grave, a part of our own being. In this we are grateful that we have been spared and are here to-day in *Annual Conclave* to continue the good work of Templar Masonry.

He reports the Order in the Pelican State as fairly prosperous. Peace and harmony prevails. He gets quite eloquent over the Triennial, which is simply a waste of wax.

We find the following in the minutes:

*R. E. Grand Commander and Sir Knights:*

WHEREAS, The Turk and Moslem is sacrificing the Christian in Armenia. Discount the reports of the press by fifty per cent. and you still have to contemplate the unquestioned fact of the murder of thousands upon thousands of men, women and children slaughtered, their homes burned, and with all the accompanying ferocity of outrages not to be named, and then the shameful spectacle of a modern Christian civilization, represented by "powers," giving strength to this Turk by a studied diplomatic inactivity of non-interference;

AND WHEREAS, As Knights Templar, we have sworn to wield our swords in defense of the Christian religion. The holiest traditions come down to us of this self-same conflict between Turk and Christian; and the well informed Templar has but to review the history of his Order to have his blood stirred to a boiling indignation in view of the Armenian atrocities;

AND WHEREAS, Templar Masonry is a farce if it fails to follow up and enforce the principles upon which its existence is based. We may not physically wield the sword, but we may, and can use an influence adjunct to the sword, in these words:

*Resolved*, That this Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Louisiana, hereby extends its sincere sympathy to the suffering and persecuted Christians of Armenia.

*Resolved*, That this Grand Commandery requests the Louisiana Representatives in Congress to favor such aid as may be possible by the United States to the Armenians.

*Resolved*, That this Grand Commandery views with regret and sorrow the indifference of the civilized powers, and more particularly that of our own country, to the horrors of the Armenian massacre.



*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted immediately to the Louisiana members of Congress, to the President of the United States, and also without delay to the R. E. Grand Master of Temp-lars of the United States.

The first "Whereas" strikes us as being a trifle shaky in its construction, punctuation and grammar, but it is possible *we* are in error in this. The whole lay-out reminds us of a prayer meeting at which the famishing condition of certain families in the vicinity was called to the attention of the Lord, and He was asked, in several eloquent petitions to come to their relief. At this point a messenger rushed in with the information that the people were in an awful fix and if anything was going to be done, it must be done at once. The Deacon in charge told him, the messenger, to return to the people and tell them to have faith! and all will be well. Meantime the brethren continued to implore God to do what they should have done themselves, until another messenger arrived with the news that the poor people had starved to death and that they might as well close up their celestial hash-house and go home!

The only practical sympathy we can show to the persecuted Armenians is to send our war vessels to Constantinople and blow the unspeakable Turk into hell, where he belongs.

You can't scare an ordinary Moslem with a preamble and resolutions, any more than you can satisfy an empty stomach with platitudes and faith.

Total membership 328—a gain of 23.

Past Grand Master J. Q. A. Fellows presented a short but exceptionally interesting report on Correspondence, in which our report for 1895 has a pleasant notice, which we appreciate.

Under the head of Non-Affiliation, he expresses himself fully. We copy only a part:

We fail to see where the two laws, those of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter and of the Grand Encampment, are irreconcilable. An unaffiliate may not sit in a Lodge of Master Masons, or walk in Masonic processions or be entitled to Masonic burial; these are *Lodge* benefits and privileges, and may well be dependent upon membership and contribution to the funds of the Lodge. But there are what we know as the rights and privileges of Freemasonry, which are distinct and separate from the Lodge rights and privileges, and wholly independent of them. They are vastly in excess of the latter, and one possessed of those, though not entitled to Lodge privileges, may yet be eligible to Commandery membership as Knights Templar, being Masons. We may not hold Masonic communication with an expelled Mason or one suspended from the rights and privileges of a Mason, and yet may hold such communication with one not entitled to the benefits and privileges of the Lodge and Chapter.

As Sir Knight Moore well says, and this is our excuse for thus treating upon this subject at such length: "This is an important subject and one that should receive attention. While it is not right that a non-contributing affiliate should be treated as a suspended or expelled Ma-

son, some remedy is needed." And after suggesting what might be a remedy, and commenting on the drones in the Fraternity, he adds: "It may be doubted whether this (his suggested remedy) will aid in securing members in the Commandery. Our (his) observation had led us to believe that the man who fails in his duty to Lodge or Chapter is of little value to a Commandery."

R. E. M. L. Scovill is Grand Commander; Past Grand Commander Lambert, Grand Recorder, and Past Grand Master Fellows, Correspondent.

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#### MAINE—1896.

Fifty-fifth Annual Conclave was held at Portland, May 7th. There were present: R. E. Fred. S. Walls, Grand Commander, R. E. Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder, the entire staff except the Senior Grand Warden, 13 Past Grand Commanders, 3 Past Deputy Grand Commanders, a long list of Past Eminent Commanders, 31 Grand Representatives (including Bro. Drummond for Mississippi,) and delegates from 17 out of the 19 Subordinate Commanderies.

We are thus particular in noting the attendance on Grand Conclaves because that is a pretty fair index of the vitality of the Order.

The Grand Commander's address is a short but comprehensive *resume* of his administration. He opens as follows:

As a sort of prelude to my official address, permit me to extend to each and every Sir Knight present a sincere and hearty greeting, and a warm welcome to this the 45th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Maine.

On the evening of the old and at the threshold of the new Templar year, it becomes our first duty to reverentially ascribe praise and thanksgiving to the blessed Immanuel, whose children we are, for his grace and mercy in permitting so many of us to again assemble around the altar of Templar Masonry, and to greet each other, who are so firmly united in the bonds of friendship and brotherly love.

He issued quite a lot of dispensations, but all for legitimate purposes, and refused one to parade on the "glorious 4th."

There is nothing of general interest in the address. He reports a rather singular case in which a Comp. R. A. Mason was rejected by the Bath Commandery, five times in the past three years, when, becoming disgusted, or discouraged, he immediately applied to the Commandery at Natick, Mass., was elected and received the Orders there! without the knowledge, privity or consent of the Bath contingent, contrary to the statutes, etc!

Of course Bath kicked; she had cause, and Natick confessed judgment and prayed for pardon, and peace reigns again.

Some of the staff, also, made reports of inspections made by them.

Proceedings local. Order in excellent shape. Total membership 3,067—a gain of 163.

Bro. Berry opens one of his good reports on Correspondence as follows:

Your chairman submits his annual report, his twenty-first. How fast the river of time flows on, but it needs must for those who have eternity before them.

“How the winters are drifting like flakes of snow,  
And the summer like birds between;  
And the years in the sheaf, how they come and go  
On the river's breast with its ebb and flow,  
As it glides in the shadow and sheen.”

Under Georgia we find these:

On the question of non-affiliation in Lodge and Chapter, he says:

“The idea is simply preposterous and absurd, that the Grand Lodge of New York can wipe out of existence every Chapter, Council, Commandery and Consistory in that State.

“The only wrong we see is the Grand Lodge of Mississippi fixing a penalty for non-affiliation, which is equal to suspension or expulsion. Our fraters, as they say, cannot serve two masters. We hold to the belief that the Grand Encampment will be the master in this case.”

While we agree with him about the penalty being too severe, we do not see how Templars can help it. If a Grand Lodge were to pass a law that all married men should cease to be Masons, and proceed to expel them, they would necessarily cease to be Templars. It would be an absurd law, but it would be law.

Judging from the effect of mild legislation against non-affiliation, we think the law injudicious. In Maine the proportion of non-affiliates is so small as not to attract notice, and although they cannot claim Lodge privileges they are generally welcomed. Yet, we notice, they generally keep away. One class of non-affiliates is composed of those who find no interest in Masonry. Severe legislation against them is ineffective, because they have already renounced it. But, frequently, under mild legislation which always beckons to them, they return to their allegiance and become valuable members. Another class drop out from some fancied grievance. Severe legislation only embitters them, while mildness often brings them back in time. A third class find the burden heavy at some time, but are glad to return when circumstances are better. A few may dimit from selfishness, but this class is too small to be regarded. To prove that this is so, we call attention to the fact that one suspended from membership for non-payment of dues may remain out for ten or twenty years, and then re-instate himself by paying the amount due when suspended, (perhaps only for two years), saving the dues for all intervening time, and thus re-instating himself when he feels age or ill health coming on. Yet we have never seen a case where this seemed to have been taken advantage of, excepting where some acute person had advanced the money to re-instate a hopeless invalid for the purpose of shifting the burden of his support back upon the neglected Lodge.

The lesson is that men will not submit to be bullied. Let it be understood that if a Mason wishes to go out he can go freely. If he elects to support a part and not the whole, allow him to do so. Let him understand that, while he cannot claim the privileges he has renounced, he is still near and dear, and he will still be a moral support, and a distinct advantage to the fraternity.

All of which is logical and sound sense. We have always thought our Grand Lodge was a trifle too hard on non-affiliates, but as Bro. Berry says: “So long as it is the law it must stand.”

Under California this:

It seems Bro. Davies is an Episcopalian, for he says:

"We are a churchman, as he is—we guess it—for he says he swears by the prayer-book, and our natural preference is for the church that is represented by the prayer-book, but the defenders of the Christian religion may not be confined to any one sect of believers. It has been well said that what constitutes a Christian is not to be decided by what church we attend, or what doctrine we profess. It is the manner of men and women we are. Character is destiny. The good life is the best passport to salvation."

It is very pleasant to hear such tolerant views from him.

Yes, it is a little out of the usual for an Episcopalian to admit that there can be any good outside of his own church, (where do you belong Bro. B?) Speaking of "Prayer Books" reminds us of the plan of a certain individual who wrote out his evening prayer and pasted it on the head board of his bedstead, and when retiring at night would undress, point to the prayer saying: "Lord, them's my sentiments," jump into bed! However, some people seem to enjoy this sort of praying, and it is none of our business. We only remark that had Peter depended on a prayer book when he started to the Master, on the water, he would have gone to the bottom, and stayed there!

Mississippi for 1896 gets nearly two pages in this report. He quotes considerably from Bro. Jinkins' address but makes no comments. Regarding Bro. Power he says:

He is now at the head, and it is a dangerous place, but Robert Macoy held it a long time. May Power be as fortunate. He was canvassing for the office of Secretary of State when he was taken sick, and his daughter continued the campaign and brought him in triumphantly. He was very sick, indeed, but pulled through, and that ought to insure him for some time.

And this on another subject:

A special committee commended the idea of the Grand Commander that every Templar should be an active member of an evangelical church, but did not approve his prohibition views, arguing for "liberty of conscience." Ordinarily it would be supposed that "liberty of conscience" would be more pleaded in matters of faith than in matters of work. That is the modern idea: Be a good citizen and believe as you like. The medieval idea was: Be a devout Christian and do as you like. But Templarism is medieval.

Bro. Stephen is a model Correspondent.

Sir Albro E. Chase is Grand Commander; Sir Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder and Reporter as usual.

#### MARYLAND—1895.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Baltimore, November 26th. Present: R. E. Sir Wm. Henry Martin, Grand Commander; Sir Jno. Henry Miller, Grand Recorder; all the Grand Officers except three, 21 Grand Representatives, 14 Past Grand Commanders and the representatives of ten Subordinate Commanderies, together with a long list of Past Eminent Commanders.

The address of Grand Commander is a well written and complete *resume* of his administration, but is confined, entirely, to matters local. He reports the Order in a prosperous condition in Maryland, "notwithstanding business depression and financial hardship." He constituted two new Commanderies and instituted two. No decisions were made except by reference to the Code. He issued a multitude of dispensations, but all for proper purposes, most of them being for privilege to ballot out of time. His visitations were quite general.

The proceedings were local. Total membership, 1087, a gain of 90.

The Correspondence is, as usual, the work of our old and valued friend, Past Grand Commander Ferdinand J. S. Gorgas, and digests the minutes of 44 Templar governing bodies in a report of 83 pages. Mississippi, for 1895, among the number.

Bro. Gorgas' review of Mississippi is very full and fraternal. He says some pleasant words about your Committee, but places too high an estimate on the correctness of our daily life. We are only dust, Bro. G., and as prone to wander out of the way as the sparks are to fly upward. It is pleasant to feel, however, that God, who made us, never forgets how frail we are, and that he does not expect angelic perfection in a finite being. While Bro. G. gets up a most excellent report, it is so constructed that it is very difficult to make satisfactory clippings, hence the measure of attention we would like to give it is curtailed. Under Montana we find this:

All the Grand Masonic Bodies in Montana postponed their time of meeting from early in September to October, on account of the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment occurring during August. What other Masonic jurisdiction would have done this? Indulging in well-merited praise of their Grand Recorder, Sir Hedges, the Grand Commander promised that if that worthy Sir Knight should at any time raise the standard for the reconquest of the Holy Land, he would go forward and spy out the land, but, unlike Joshua's locusts, would endeavor to lodge in more respectable quarters. We suggest to the Grand Recorder and Grand Commander, that owing to the present unsettled condition of the Turkish Empire, the present might prove an auspicious season for such an enterprise, especially as it would be attended with considerable excitement and adventure even to the spyer, owing to the peculiar feelings the Mohamedans entertain for Christians.

R. E. Sir Wm. H. Clark is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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#### MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND—1895.

Semi-Annual Conclave was held in the city of Providence, May 28th, Sir Samuel C. Lawrence, Grand Commander, presiding. A large number of permanent members and the representatives of most of the Subordinate Commanderies were in attendance.

The address of Grand Commander Lawrence is an elegant paper, worthy of its distinguished author. Most of its references, however,

are local. Full and eloquent tribute is paid to the memory and merits of the magnanimous dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions.

His "dispensations" were all for proper purposes. Under "Decisions" we find this:

One of the duties which devolve upon the Grand Commander is to render decisions upon questions of government, procedure and discipline which arise in the Commanderies, and are referred to him. Some of these questions can be readily determined by reference to the proper authorities by those who are familiar with them: but it must be confessed that information scattered through two Constitutions and Codes of Statutes, with supplemental decisions, the seeming purport of which is often qualified by later legislation and decisions, found only in the Triennial and Annual Proceedings, is not easily got at by the average seeker, and it is no wonder that an expounder is sometimes in demand. Other questions arise involving matters upon which no decisions have been rendered. It is pleasant to know that a committee has been appointed by the Grand Encampment to revise its Constitution, Code of Statutes, Edicts and Law, and to issue the revision in print to its members with the summons for the coming Triennial Conclave, and action thereon will probably be taken by the Grand Encampment.

His decisions were in accord with the law as it is. The pending Triennial came in for a large share of attention. The proceedings are, or were, local.

The Eighty-ninth Annual was held in the city of Boston, October 31st. Present: Grand Commander Lawrence, the entire staff, and a very full representation from the Commanderies.

The address of Grand Commander is an able and exhaustive epitome of a most successful administration. We copy the opening:

The close of the 89th year of its existence finds this Grand Commandery in the enjoyment of great prosperity, with the promise of increased usefulness and honor in the advancing years. After a term of official experience which has necessarily brought me into nearer contact than ever before with the Subordinate Bodies of the jurisdiction, and into a better knowledge of their interior work, I can bear sincere testimony to their zeal and devotion and to the value of the influences, moral and social, which go out from them; and I am more and more impressed with the importance of the place which Templarism occupies as an auxiliary branch of the great and beneficent Institution of Masonry. An organization like this, which holds up before its members a high ideal of justice and honor, kindness and courtesy, and all those gentler graces and charities which sweeten and ennoble human intercourse, has no occasion to apologize for its existence; its daily record is its best justification.

For myself, who have been a Mason for forty-one years, during thirty-nine of which I have been a member of the Order of Knights Templar, I acknowledge with a deep sense of gratitude the debt I owe to the beloved Institution of Freemasonry. In its halls I have spent some of the happiest hours I have ever known, and the warmest friendships of my life have been contracted among its members. Alas, how many of these friends have gone before me! I can still see through the mists of time "the old familiar faces:" Moore, Robinson, Lewis, Gardner, Dame, Titus, Parkman, Doyle, Van Slyck—where shall I stop?—noble men, wise counsellors, loyal and true Masons! To consort with

such men was a liberal education, and to have shared their friendship is now a most precious remembrance.

Such is Masonry to those who love it, and you will pardon me for this involuntary tribute to an Institution to which I am bound both by present ties and by tender and sacred memories which go far into the past.

Although the entire address is of absorbing interest to the Templars of the Empire Jurisdiction, we find but little of general interest.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island is now the banner Templar Grand Body of the world, its total membership being 11,499!—a net gain of 1,117, nearly ten per cent. in one year! This phenomenal growth is the direct result of the pending Triennial, and we fear that very many of the “new converts” will fall out by the way.

The “Report of Triennial Committee” covers 206 pages of the pamphlet, is profusely illustrated and proves conclusively that the “Old Bay State” and “Little Rhody” did things with a big auger. The report closes thusly :

Who can doubt that there is a place of honor and usefulness for the modern Order of Christian Knighthood? It stands for gentleness, hospitality, courtesy, magnanimity, and divine charity; for the expression of a blessed fellowship, and a benign service such as the world most needs. As in the past, so now, it represents the most sacred sentiments which appeal to the heart of humanity, and which prompt men to the fulfillment of the duties of related life; and thus it justifies its existence, as thus it claims the loving, loyal support of all true Knights Templars.

Our brethren certainly place a high estimate upon the character and usefulness of Modern Templary. We are not pessimistically inclined, and yet we “couldn’t” exactly see it with our brother’s eyes. The possibilities of the Order are equal to the above, but its practical operations and developments fall far below those same “possibilities,” we think.

Correspondence is the joint production of our clerical brothers, Rugg and Finch, is an excellent paper, such as they usually write, reviews the minutes of most of the Templar legislative bodies, ours for 1895 receiving its just meed of attention. Bro. Rugg opens the performance with the following prologue :

In undertaking the preparation of another year’s report the present writer is reminded of an expression made use of by Paul the Apostle in his letter addressed to the church at Philippi, which is as follows: “To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not irksome, and for you it is safe.” The Apostle wrote to his fellow believers in Christianity, resident in one of the chief cities of Macedonia, conscious of the fact that he was to repeat to them some of the same truths and exhortations which he had previously set forth to disciples in letters addressed to the various churches, and which he had declared by word of mouth during his personal ministry at Philippi. He did not hesitate, however, to repeat his injunctions, to again explain, illustrate and enforce Christian teachings, under a somewhat changed form of presentation. It was not irksome or troublesome for the Apostle to do this work. His heart

was filled with love for the Master, so that he found a continued zest in his advocacy of Christian truth and the promotion of the interests of His kingdom. "For you it is safe," he says, that this work should be continued. Believers would be more secure, if their pure minds were stirred up by way of remembrance, in regard to the great truths revealed in the Gospel.

Writers of Correspondence may well note the suggestiveness of the reference here made. In any case there is much of repetition and sameness in the reports they prepare. The work of the reviewer includes the threshing of considerable old straw, the re-stating of familiar propositions, the enforcement of appeals which have been frequently urged. Such work at the first may seem dreary and uninviting; but regarded in the way of a correct estimate it appears with added interest and attractiveness, as does all service rendered for the sake of truth and human advancement.

It is a safeguard for the Templar organization that fundamental principles should often be stated, and that the old-time lessons of faith and duty be frequently rehearsed. It ought not to be irksome thus to write or read some of the "same things," which can hardly be too frequently considered or too much emphasized.

With the additions to the Templar ranks year by year, a goodly number of brethren read a report on Correspondence for the first time, and however much of reiteration of old truth and argument it may contain, such a report will be to them a fresh, new story. Correspondents may remember that, like actors upon the stage who speak to a different audience every night, they address each year a somewhat different constituency. Mindful of this fact they should not hesitate to re-affirm principles and lessons which may often have been declared, and to repeat the words of wholesome counsel and admonition.

Always, however, there are some new movements to chronicle, with, not unlikely, some new questions presenting themselves for consideration. It relieves any possible monotony of a Correspondent's work that he is called each year to notice some changes in activities and operations, as well as the changes in personal force and direction, some of which touch the springs of tenderness in the soul as they carry with them the announcement of losses and bereavements, telling of faithful Sir Knights who have laid down the sword and put off the armor, leaving to others the work and the conflict of the present day.

To bring forth treasures, old and new, is the work of a Correspondent; to repeat familiar truths; to urge again the duties which may seem common-place, while at the same time he is on the alert to note every new expression of the Templar system which may be made, together with whatever best indicates its work and accomplishments. The writing of such reports can but serve the interests of Masonic Templarism. The reading of such reports can but add something to the information of intelligent brethren, whose love for the institution will be likely to increase with their better apprehension of its character and the ample scope of its ministry in the world.

This report, for 1895, is written at a time when the Templar Order, having already obtained a large measure of influence, is seemingly advancing with rapid strides along the lines which are bright with promise of a still greater prosperity. In numbers and resources it is strong as never before; it has gained popular favor to a remarkable degree, and is better than ever before equipped to render the service which may be expected of an organization founded upon the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. The door of opportunity now swings wide open to the Templar Order, a door of blessed privilege



through which it may pass to make its name more illustrious and its works more glorious.

The work of present review has been divided between the two members of the Committee on Correspondence, whose individual work and responsibility are indicated by the initial appended to the report in each jurisdiction. The Chairman of the Committee is responsible for the opening and closing portions of the Report.

We are glad our brother wrote the above, as it sort of paves the way for placing literary "hash" on the table, which the exigencies of the service sometime demand. We hope our brethren will pardon the inelegance and possible lack of good taste in the above. The esthetic portion of our early education was sadly neglected. We are not "cultured."

Bro. Rugg reviews Mississippi and gives us two pages. He says of our effort: "It is characteristically unique and interesting, whatever may be thought of the good taste of some of its paragraphs." Will Bro. R. point out a few of the paragraphs of questionable taste? The kindness will be appreciated and a reformation may follow. We would be glad to devote more space to this jurisdiction but have already exceeded their quota.

R. E. Sir Eugene H. Richards is Grand Commander; E. Sir Benj. W. Rowell, Grand Recorder; R. E. Rev. Sir H. W. Rugg and E. Sir Thos. E. St. John, Committee on Correspondence.

What is the matter with Bro. Finch?

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#### MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND—1896.

The Ninetieth Semi-Annual Conclave was held in the city of Providence, May 28th. There were present: R. E. Eugene H. Richards, Grand Commander; Sir Benj. W. Rowell, Grand Recorder; all the other Grand Officers, 10 Past Grand Commanders, 74 Past Eminent Commanders and 41 delegates from Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a good one, as becomes its distinguished author and the Banner Jurisdiction of the world. He issued quite a batch of dispensations, but for practical purposes. He grows quite eloquent along the line of religious services on sundry days. Twenty-three Commanders and 2,000 Templars attended Easter services. About half the Commanderies and one-fifth of the members, which is much better than in some other places. The proceedings were of no general interest.

The Ninetieth Annual was held in Boston, October 29th. Grand Commander, E. H. Richards, presiding. The entire staff was present and every Subordinate Commandery was represented.

The annual address of the Grand Commander is exceptionally short but is an elegant paper. Its references, however, are nearly all local. Appropriate and eloquent tribute is paid to the Knightly dead and the roll is quite a long one. Peace to their ashes.

His dispensations were numerous and all for legitimate purposes.

Under "Decisions" we find two cases of infringement of jurisdiction in which two Commanderies conferred the orders on two companions who had been rejected, one in Maine, the other in New Hampshire. He required his subordinates to apologize, which they did, and their apologies were accepted, but the Maine and New Hampshire Commanderies decidedly refused to release jurisdiction, whereupon the R. E. decided that the two Commanders, Henry M. Hartleb and Luman B. Seaver are not entitled to recognition as Red Cross Knights or Templars.

The proceedings are devoid general interest. Order in excellent shape. Total membership 11,789, a gain of 293.

The Correspondence is again the finished production of those two eminent and justly distinguished brethren, Rev. Sirs Rugg and St. John. The report considers the minutes of most of the Templar governing Bodies, including ours for 1896, and is entirely worthy of its authors and the Empire Templar Jurisdiction.

Bro. Rugg reviews Mississippi in his usual courteous and pleasant style, and as it does not occupy much space, we copy the review entire:

#### MISSISSIPPI—1896.

The volume in hand, 130 pages, contains a record of the transactions of the Grand Commandery at the Thirty-sixth Annual Conclave, held at Jackson, February 12-14, 1896. The Grand Officers, with two exceptions, were in their places at the opening, and there were also present six Past Grand Officers, the Representatives of eleven Commanderies, and a large number of visiting Knights.

The Grand Commandery, being "opened in ample and Knightly form," proceeded to the First Methodist Church where the offices of devotion were observed and a discourse was delivered by Rev. Sir Irvin Miller. The text was Math. 16: 13-16. The preacher dealt with questions relating to the personal Christ, well maintaining the proposition of His Divine character and exalted mission.

The Grand Commander, Sir F. P. Jenkins, made report of his official acts and added several timely suggestions, among them one advocating connection with the church as a paramount duty of Templars. A committee to whom this part of the address was referred approved the suggestion and their report was adopted by the Grand Commandery. In noticing the Triennial Conclave at Boston, the Grand Commander expresses his grateful appreciation of the cordial welcome accorded visiting Sir Knights from the South. "If the people of Boston manifested any partiality to their visitors, those from the South were the favored ones."

The report on Correspondence, covering nearly one hundred pages, furnished by Sir Knight E. G. DeLap, contains a discussion of many important topics relating to the principles and movements of the Templar Order. It goes without saying that he has positive convictions and makes a forcible expression of his opinions. He maintains the supremacy of the Blue Lodge and affirms that Templar legislation must always conform to its decrees. He emphasises his former utterances respecting Commanderies wearing uniform and carrying swords when attending church service. He again signifies his sympathy with Sir Cornelius Hedges, Grand Recorder and Correspondent of Montana, in his efforts to bring about the redemption of Palestine. We have the same feeling. We agree with Bro. DeLap in the following statement: "That Palestine

is and has been so long in the hands of the infidels is a disgrace to Christendom and a blotch upon civilization." He does not hold the Grand Encampment in high esteem and thinks it made a mistake in its action respecting non-affiliated Master Masons, members of a Commandery. He says:

The matter should have had the earnest and sensible attention of the Grand Encampment, at Boston, but did not, as that concern very seldom indulge in the luxury of doing things practical and sensible, hence nothing was done, and the Statutes of that body are still in conflict with those of our Grand Lodge and common sense, and are likely to remain indefinitely.

We doubt whether this criticism would have been made in so severe a form had Bro. DeLap been present at the Grand Encampment Conclave in Boston. Something was done, albeit the whole subject was not considered and passed upon. The subject was discussed in a very earnest and able manner, and whatever may be alleged of the "general make up" of the Body, there were present a good number of Sir Knights who are not visionaries or sentimentalists, and whose loyalty to Blue Lodge Masonry has never been questioned. These practical and sensible men were not all on one side, Bro. DeLap; they held different opinions on the questions involved pertaining to the main issue, but had no thought of attacking Grand Lodge sovereignty, or letting go fundamental principles. At Pittsburg, with more time available, we trust such added action may be taken as seems necessary. We hope Bro. DeLap may be at that meeting.

We are glad to know that even an effort was made at Boston to do something tangible and useful, by the Grand Encampment. That it failed is not remarkable, as the work was along lines which were new in its experience. In this connection we clip the following, which we find under Colorado:

Following the above statement is an expression of opinion, in which we heartily concur, that it would be every way better and more in consonance with the character of such an Order as ours, if Grand and Subordinate Commanderies would cease to dispense intoxicating liquors at their respective headquarters on Triennial occasions.

Of course we concur! have been concurring for many years, but they still dispense Jersey Lightning, Tanglefoot and Red Eye at the Head Quarters "allee samee!"

Both branches of the report—i. e. that prepared by Bro. Rugg, including the opening and closing, and that of which Bro. St. John is the architect, are exceptionally able and interesting, and we would be glad to clip more, but our space is taken.

Sir William R. Walker is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MICHIGAN—1896.

The Fortieth Annual was held at Grand Rapids, May 19th. There were present: R. E. Sir Wm. E. Jewitt, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Jno. A. Gerow, Grand Recorder, the entire staff, save the Senior Grand Warden, Sir Robert B. McKnight, who had finished his earthly pilgrim-

age, were in their places, 17 Past Grand Commanders and the representatives of 44 out of the 45 Subordinate Commanderies in that Jurisdiction. Frank H. Thomas, representative of the Grand Master, being in attendance, was welcomed and received with the honors due his position.

The address is an admirable paper, opening as follows:

This Grand Conclave assembled, marks the closing of another year in our history. Like the white stones that record the miles we travel on the highway to a distant city, our annual meetings remind us that we are by so much the nearer to the end of life's pilgrimage, and that the events of one more year are on the tablets of the recording angel. It is impossible to one who weighs life in the scales of a thoughtful mind to look upon it otherwise than with a progressive seriousness.

Every year we live in a multitude of steps toward the unknown and unexplored regions of "The Land of the Hereafter." They may be firm, wavering or halting, but they are ever forward to the brink of the precipice beyond which, the eye of faith alone can pierce. There are no substitutes accepted in this pilgrimage. Mysteriously we came into it, and as mysteriously we leave it when the destination is reached.

Appropriate and eloquent tribute is paid to the dead, both of his own and other jurisdictions, especially to Grand Senior Warden McKnight of Michigan. Peace to their ashes. He is enthusiastic over the Triennial at Boston, and says "it was a pronounced success, and a most enjoyable occasion." That it was a social success and enjoyable to the participants, we have no doubt, but we are equally sure that in so far as being beneficial to the Order goes, it was, as usual, a miserable failure.

From quite a long list of "Decisions" we clip the following which we think is wrong:

*Question.* A Companion petitioned to a Commandery in 1883. Said petition was never reported on or brought to ballot, and by motion in September of same year was "laid upon the table for further consideration." Afterwards he removed to another jurisdiction, and desires to again petition for the Orders of Knighthood. Whose material is he?

*Answer.* He is the material of the first Commandery.

Title XLV, Section 10, Code of Statutes.

Being now a resident of another jurisdiction, he should petition to the Commandery in whose jurisdiction he now resides, and they should obtain a waiver, and the consent of the former Commandery to receive the same.

We are not disposed to agree to the proposition that a Commandery can accept the petition of a Companion, and take no further action thereon, and thus acquire perpetual jurisdiction, neither electing or rejecting him itself or allowing another Commandery to do so. In other words perpetual jurisdiction results only from rejection, or election coupled with the conferring of one degree.

The balance of his decisions were all right. The Law Committee approved the whole lot, including the one we object to.

His dispensations were all for proper purposes. We are at some loss to imagine, however, what the Grand Lodge of Michigan was doing on July 4th that required her to have a Templar escort?

He made a number of official visits and found the Order in good shape. As a whole the address is an admirable paper.

The proceedings were local. The Order is in tip-top shape. Total membership 5457, a gain of 82.

Over 260 pages of this ponderous tome is occupied by the report on Correspondence which is the finished work of Past Grand Commander Jno. A. Gerow, Grand Recorder, who digests the minutes of nearly the whole Templar world, in his usual pleasant and courteous vein. Mississippi, for 1895, gets 9 pages in this exhaustive report. Anent our "Devotional Offices" he has this to say of our beloved Bro. Grand Prelate Lewis' sermon on that occasion:

Appropriate devotional exercises preceded the regular opening, at which a beautiful address was delivered by Rev. Sir T. W. Lewis, Grand Prelate. The address, though brief, was replete with grand word pictures of scenes in the life of the Lord Jesus, for one at least of which we must make room.

We thank our Brother for this meed of praise for one whom we dearly love and who deserves it all, and more.

He styles Grand Commander French's address as "a very able resume of the year's work."

Referring to Bro. French's suggestion to pay the expenses of the Grand Officers he says:

There should be no unnecessary burden placed upon the delegates. The time spent should be deemed a sufficient contribution from the individual, without making him pay his expenses besides. Templar enthusiasm is all well enough, but it receives a dampener when it has to be paid for. Grand Commanderies are not paupers, and if not able to foot the bills they should disband.

He then quotes entire, Bro. French's remarks in reference to the gavel and the historical incidents connected therewith, calling it "a beautiful passage, recalling a touching episode in the history of the Grand Commandery," and adds: "It will be a prized relic, and as through years to come it passes from hand to hand, it will carry with it a bright, undying memory of the heroic devotion of American Templars who, Christ like, died that others might live."

He has these pleasant words for this Committee:

The correspondence report is from the hand and brain of that doughty warrior, Sir E. George DeLap, who, in spite of his Frenchified cognomen, we always suspected of being an Irish Knight in disguise, because he always has his lance in rest in defence of distressed damsels, ready, like Count Robert of Paris, to fight at the drop of the hat.

Being a married man, war, naturally, has no terrors for us, but, notwithstanding, we seldom engage in a fight except as a matter of principle. Referring to what we said to California last year on the subject of wine, he says:

Well, judging from what California did in the wine way at Boston,

the exhortation of the Grand Commander did not effect the general issue very much, and we for one are becoming weary of the attachment of big Templar spree and "free bar" to the Triennial record of the Grand Encampment.

We commend the above to those who have denied the soft impeachment of the Grand Encampment, when presented by us. Our good Bro. Jno. A. was "thar," and refers only to what he has seen.

Quoting our review of our lamented Bro. Wheeler of Connecticut, last year, he makes the following comment upon the different subjects considered.

We do not hold to soul sleeping, for when the dust returns to the earth as it was, the soul ascends to the God who gave it. Christ took the soul of the penitent thief with him to Paradise. We do not hold to any Templar work on Sunday, save burying the dead, not because of any sinfulness in the ceremonies, but because of the inferences that could be drawn. To us Templars all things may be lawful, but all things are not always expedient, and the example we set, even in what we know to be sacred, can have a pernicious construction placed upon it.

Our Bro. is entitled to his opinion, and it is, possibly, correct.

He then remarks: Sir George is severe on machine poetry, and is apparently not a lover of Browning or our "Sweet Singer of Michigan." He bites the end off the address of the Grand Commander of New Hampshire, as follows:

He closes with the following unique specimen of Machine Poetry:

"So let my past life stand just as it stands,  
And let me now as I may grow old,  
I am what I am, and my life for me  
Is the best, or it had not been, I hold."

We are glad that Bro. Hayes is not the author of this verse. Probably its original architect went into a decline after producing it. The practice of writing such verses as these should be discouraged. It is too wearing on the writer and too straining on the reader! The theology is rather shaky and the jingle harsh.

Dear Sir George, you know what Shakespeare says the man is fit for who "hath not music in his soul?" Now, we consider that verse a perfect gem in one-syllable words.

John Wesley heard a woman in his congregation trying to sing through a nose having a three-quarter section of catarrh located in it. The noise irritated the divine. "Stop, my good woman, stop. You are annoying the whole congregation." "I am singing with the spirit, Mr. Wesley." "Well, well, sing away, sister; but I pity the spirit that has to stand such a noise as that."

Dear Bro. John: Josh Billings once wrote a piece of poetry and sent it to a magazine man for publication, (I quote Josh literally) "and the onery cuss wrote me as follows: Dear Sir: You may be a blamed fool, but you are no poet! Yours in haste." And I say to you that while I am free to admit that you are a mighty good Correspondent and my beloved friend, you are no judge of poetry! Your story about John Wes-

ley correctly outlined the situation. Wesley was doubtless, a better judge of music than he was of the doctrine of Sanctification, as taught in God's Book. There are many excellent things in this most excellent paper, that we would like to clip, but our space for the Wolverines is full.

May God abundantly bless our Bro. and all the Templars of Michigan.

R.: E.: Sir Edwin D. Wheeler is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

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#### MINNESOTA—1896.

The Thirty-first Annual Conclave was held at Stillwater, June 24th. There were present: R.: E.: Sir Harry E. Whitney, Grand Commander, Sir Thomas Montgomery, Grand Recorder, 8 Past Grand Commanders, and the Representatives of 19 Subordinate Commanderies and a large delegation of Grand Representatives, including ours, Bro. Charles H. Mix.

The Grand Commander's address is quite a long one, well written, and confined to matters of local interest, mostly. He quotes the following as among the transactions of the Grand Encampment at Boston:

"Question: Can a petition for the Orders of Knighthood be withdrawn after having been properly received by the Commandery"? The decision or answer to this query, by both the Grand Master and Law Committee, was in the negative, and the Body sustained them. To us this action does not seem remarkable, for the reason that the Concern never wastes an opportunity to curtail the privileges and prerogatives of the Subordinate Commanderies, and this was too good a chance to let slip. That the decision is arbitrary and without the leaven of sound sense is apparent to any one who takes the trouble to use his brains a little. There are several contingencies under which it would be perfectly right and proper for a Commandery to allow the withdrawal of a petition, and it is a right and a privilege that the Commanderies of this bailiwick will continue to exercise in the future as though the Central Excrescence had not neglected its legitimate functions for the purpose of nosing around among the domestic concerns of the Subordinate Commanderies. In our opinion, any member or officer of a Subordinate Commandery, who will ask such a question of the Grand Master or Grand Encampment, is an ass! It is just such stupidity as this that has resulted in the loss to those Commanderies which try to be loyal to the Concern, of all, or nearly all, their rights and the privilege of regulating their domestic affairs to suit themselves.

Much space is devoted to a detailed report of his visitations during the year, which embraced every Subordinate Commandery in the State, a most remarkable and unusual thing to be done by a Grand Commander. He reports the Order in good shape. The address, as a

whole, is a good one. A portrait of its distinguished author adorns the pamphlet.

The proceedings are local. Total membership, 2,411, a gain of 138, Finances healthy, \$2,123 68 on hand.

The Correspondence is the seventh effort of our good Bro. Grand Recorder Montgomery, and like its predecessors, is good reading. He says there are no great questions agitating the Templar minds and that hence his report will be shorter than usual. Our pamphlet being three months late did not reach him in time to appear in this report.

Under Texas we find this:

We agree that most of the labor expended in getting up a constitution by a Grand Commandery is supererogation, as it is mostly a copy of the law already prepared for us. In our case we took great pains to be in full accord with the enactments of the governing body, so that, including own own local regulations, it will be found convenient for reference. The same criticism could be made of by-laws of subordinate bodies, which often contain whole sections of the general law, but chiefly for facility of reference. He refers to our prediction that the next Triennial would be held at Pittsburg, and wonders if we can tell as accurately who will be the next president of the United States. Yes! we can, but we refrain from disclosing our political choice in this connection.

We will bet \$4.00 he can't tell who will be the next President, to-day (October 5th.) As the case stands, neither constitution, by-laws or anything else save the Code and Digest of the Grand Encampment seem to be in evidence now. That is what ails Hannah!

R. E. Sir Jno. H. Randall is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MISSOURI—1896.

The Thirty-fifth Annual was held in Springfield, April 21st. There were present: R. E. Sir Leslie Orear, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir W. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder, 10 other Grand Officers, 12 Past Grand Commanders, 26 Past Eminent Commanders who are not delegates or Grand Officers, 27 Grand Representatives—not including our's—and delegates from 55 out of 57 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of Grand Commander is an admirable paper, worthy of its author and the great State of Missouri. We copy his opening:

SIR KNIGHTS: We have met in this beautiful "Queen City of the Ozarks" for the purpose of holding the Thirty-fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Missouri. It is with pleasure that I greet you and bid you welcome to our councils and deliberations. We are assembled for the purpose of hearing the reports of your officers as to how they have performed the duties committed to them by the laws and customs of the Order, and to transact the business that may be legally brought to our attention. Many important matters will be presented to you in the course of our proceedings which will demand your thoughtful consideration. It is desirous that you take ample time in these deliberations that you may thereby avoid the evil consequences of hasty action,



and if it shall be discovered that you cannot complete your labors in one day, do not hesitate to devote more time to the work before you.

We have, as is our bounden duty, rendered our Thanksgiving to Almighty God for our preservation to this hour, and invoke His aid and blessing upon our deliberations, without which we labor in vain. Let us hope that the spirit of the invocation may pervade all our acts and doings at this Annual Conclave, and that when we shall have completed our labors, we may enjoy the reflection that what we have done is to the honor and glory of God and the advancement of the Kingdom of our Blessed Immanuel.

It is not my purpose to sermonize on the teachings of these Valiant and Magnanimous Orders, or upon our duties as Knights Templar, yet I cannot refrain from adding my testimony to the fact that he who has attained these noble Orders in his search for Masonic light is brought to a realizing sense, that without the influences of Christian teaching a Mason's moral and social edifice is incomplete. The Order of the Temple, therefore, bears an intimate and inseparable relationship to the ancient guild, and we should find our chiefest pleasure in pointing the newly made apprentice to the realization symbolized by the Templar's Cross.

It is gratifying to me to report that the growth of the Order in this State for the last year has exceeded our expectations.

Nearly every Commandery has shown an improved condition both in the number of its members and the increase of interest in its affairs.

Peace and harmony continue to prevail throughout our borders, and so far as I am advised, there is nothing to retard our progress or prevent us from doing those good deeds which, alike, form our duty and our pleasure.

Under the head of "Boston Triennial," he gives voice to the following:

I may be further indulged in saying, that it is the settled policy of this Grand Body to keep open house at each recurring Triennial Conclave, (the wisdom of which I seriously question,) that some provision should be made by law whereby your Triennial Committee could be supplied with ample funds for that purpose, without having to depend upon the uncertainty of raising them by subscriptions in the several Commanderies. To say the least, it places this Grand Body in an attitude towards its Subordinates which neither they nor it can regard with satisfaction, and the practice should be abandoned as not tending to enlarge the dignity of the Grand Commandery.

So far as concerns the legislative features of the 26th Triennial Conclave I have to report that very little was accomplished; whatever was done is already promulgated in the proceedings now in the hands of the several Subordinate Commanderies.

This last clipping contains nothing unusual and might as well have been omitted. "Blessed are they that expect *nothing*, for they shall not be disappointed!"

His dispensations granted were all for proper purposes. Some of those refused he ought to have granted. He refused to convene the Grand Commandery at the request of the M. W. the Grand Master of Masons of Missouri, and other distinguished Templars, for the purpose of acting as an escort to the M. W. the Grand Lodge on the occasion of laying a corner stone by that Body. We are of the opinion that the

request *should* have been granted, and can see nothing in the reasons assigned to justify a refusal.

He made two or three important decisions, all of which we would be glad to copy, but for their great length. The address, as a whole, is an exceptionally able one.

The minutes are local in their reference. A cut of the Masonic Home adorns the pamphlet. The report of its management says: "There are now at the Home 49 girls, 33 boys, 11 old brothers, 9 widows, 2 old married ladies with their husbands, and 1 maiden lady. Total 105." The Treasury has a balance of over \$5,000. Total membership 4,234.

Bro. Mayo submitted his 19th report on Correspondence, covering 80 pages and considering the doings of nearly all the Templar Grand Bodies in his usual courteous style. Mississippi for 1895, gets *ten lines*! Thanks, awfully!

Sir Ira V. McMillan is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### MONTANA—1896.

The Ninth Annual was held in the city of Butte, September 14th. There were present: R. E. Sir Edward D. Neill, Grand Commander; Sir Cornelius Hedges, Grand Recorder, all the Grand Officers, two Past Grand Commanders, 10 Past Eminent Commanders and delegates from 7 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is quite a lengthy *resume* of his administration. We copy the following as being an extremely murky response to the request named:

I have been asked to define the words "Christian Religion," and though in my mind the answer to this question is very clear, the Order has ever been conservative, and, as we think, rather shirked the courage of its own convictions, in refusing to give any general definition.

I find in the proceedings of Pennsylvania for 1895 the following: "But we consider the belief in the Trinity so interwoven into every atom of the Templar Ritual and structure as to leave no room whatever for discussion or argument. If there be no firm belief in the Trinity, then to a certainty is our house builded on sand."

And again, quoting from the address of the Grand Commander of Texas for 1894: "It is the earnest desire of my heart that prompts me thus to exhort you on this occasion rather than consume the hour on what we call Ancient Templarism, clad in sanguinary robes, and immortalized in history for daring and heroic deeds to secure an empty sepulchre; but to inspire your hearts to a nobler warfare, and secure a fadeless crown, which He, who rose triumphant from that tomb, has promised to place upon your brow, if faithful to the end."

Again, quoting from the address of the Grand Master of Victoria for 1895, we find the following: "The religious aspect of our Order requires more serious consideration. That grand cosmopolitan society—Freemasonry—assures every candidate on entering it, that no vow will be required of him contrary to his religious belief, but at the very portal of our Holy Order, he is asked to declare his belief in the Holy Trinity."

The following is the expression of the Grand Encampment on this all important question, and is to be found on page 37 of the printed proceedings of that body for 1883: "To the question, What is the exegesis of, or what is the Christian religion which as Knights Templar we are pleased to defend? I replied: The Ritual contains those things which a Knight obligates himself to believe and perform. The Grand Master has no authority to give additional definitions or theological views on the subject. The entire body of Sir Knights who are connected with the Order have taken the existing obligation to the satisfaction of their own consciences, and it is fair to presume that those who may hereafter be elected will find no difficulty in following the same course."

The Grand Encampment was pleased to approve the above expression of Grand Master Dean, for which see page 268 of the same volume, report of the Committee on Jurisprudence.

Decision No. 5, made by Grand Master H. L. Palmer, see proceedings of the Grand Encampment for 1868, page 17, and approval of the same by the Committee of Jurisprudence, page 70 of the same volume, is as follows:

"No one can properly be a member of our Order, "which is founded on the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian virtues," who is not a firm believer in the religion of Jesus Christ; no one who does not acknowledge Him as the Saviour of mankind, and believe in the atonement offered up by Him on Calvary, can be a worthy Knight Templar. The rules of the Order, however, do not require any further or more definite profession of faith than is comprehended in the Ritual. One who ridicules or makes light of the Holy Bible, or scoffs at religion, is an unworthy member of the Order."

In view of the above, and calling to my mind some of the many passages of the Ritual, as follows: "The Immaculate Word," "The human skull resting upon the Word of God," "The lesson by the Senior Warden," "The Ascension scene," "The Prelate's address," "The presentation of the Baldrick" and finally the entire Order of Malta, I give my answer by stating a full belief in the Apostles Creed.

We confess our utter inability to find in our brother's winding up, the semblance of an intelligent reply to the question asked. The smallest allowance of common sense and the most superficial knowledge of the Christian religion should convince any sane man that the doctrine of the "Trinity" is as much a part of Christian belief as it is the atonement made by our Saviour, hence we cannot see the use of discussing the matter.

He tried hard to induce his constituents to be "uniformly" religious on the Sunday after "Ascension Day," but his success was not flattering, only 141 Knights out of eight Commanderies participating!

When we reflect that there are 348 Templars in Montana, the percentage of piety of this sort is not encouraging.

A portrait of the Right Eminent makes an elegant frontispiece for the pamphlet.

We clip the following from the proceedings and it has our hearty endorsement:

Sir Knight Cornelius Hedges, as Chairman of the Correspondence Committee, reported that he had been unable to complete the report, owing to the fact that the proceedings of four of the Grand Commanderies had not yet been received. There being no objections, the Sir

Knight was granted further time to complete his report, and it was ordered to be printed with the proceedings.

Sir Knights Hedges and Chamberlain then submitted the following resolutions:

*Be it Resolved*, By the Knights Templar of Montana, in Grand Commandery assembled, that we have heard with anguish and horror of the barbarous war of extermination waged by the fanatical Turks against that ancient people, the Armenians, apparently for no other reason than that they are Christians.

*Resolved*, That as Soldiers enlisted for the defense of the Christian Religion, it becomes us with united and earnest voice to appeal to all the nations of Christendom to join in an effectual protest against this inhuman persecution, and to urge them to secure the setting apart of a sufficient portion of ancient Armenia for their exclusive occupation, under a government of their own and under the protection of the Christian powers.

*Resolved, further*, That we believe it the duty of the Christian nations conjointly to secure the complete severance of ancient Palestine from Turkish occupation and control, that it may be repossessed and restored to its ancient beauty and fertility by Christian and Jew alike, attracted by its sacred associations and governed by its own people, under the joint guarantee of all Christian nations.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Montana members of Congress, and to the M. E. Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States.

Upon motion of Sir Knight F. D. Jones, duly seconded, the resolutions were adopted as read, and the Grand Recorder instructed to forward the copies called for.

We hope our Bro. Cornelius will keep hammering away at the Turks until his object is fully accomplished.

We turn now to the "Appendix" where we find one of our beloved Bro. Hedges' inimitable reports on Correspondence, in which the doings of nearly all the Templar world have careful and courteous attention, Mississippi for 1896 getting her full quota. We copy his entire review of our pamphlet.

#### MISSISSIPPI.

The Sir Knights of Mississippi were in Grand Conclave in February last, in the city of Jackson, for the Thirty-sixth Anniversary.

Sir F. P. Jenkins presided as Grand Commander over a fair body of representative Knights, including, besides the regular officers, five Past Grand Commanders, and representatives of all but one of the twelve Subordinates. Before entering upon business, all united in religious services conducted by Sir. Irvin Miller, in the Methodist Church, where a good sermon was delivered on a text from Mathew, 16, 13-16.

The address of the R. E. deserves notice, if nothing else, from the fact that it claims the year past to have been one of great prosperity. It is claimed that the tide of immigration is flowing southward and opening an era of prosperity. Amidst the general wail, this sounds good. We always prefer to rejoice with those who rejoice than mourn with those who mourn. Sir Jenkins' views of things differ materially from that of Sir DeLap, though both of the same jurisdiction, and we take it that good or poor health has had much to do with the appearance of things. We are rather inclined to infer the Lord's favor, from the text, "Whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth." It takes a strong faith in times like these to see and to appreciate the blessings in the disguise

of misfortunes, but we may well believe that they come to wean us from this life and strengthen our faith in a higher and purer one.

Sir Jenkins believes that every Sir Knight, to be consistent with his professions, should connect himself with some church, and the excellent committee to whom the same was referred, approved the same. We wondered at the action of the committee in approving this and being so considerate of moral free-agency, in recommending applicants for liquor license. In the matter of uniting with a church, we can well understand why many Knights hesitate. No church is in all respects according to their belief, and it seems to them often as requiring assent to much that they do not clearly believe, and it seems to them hypocritical to profess more than they believe. There is no particular merit in belonging to a church, though we think it an advantage to one who sincerely desires to lead a Christian life. Whether in or out of the church, every Knight Templar is under the same obligation to lead a Christian life, and if each follows the example of the Master, he will want the gospel proclaimed everywhere and never wrap himself up in the complacency that his own calling and election is sure. Our Mississippi Fraters occupy such high ground that we wish there were more of them and more like them.

The R. E. was in Boston with a few associates, and had quarters on Columbus Avenue. He speaks warmly of the entertainment and says if any partiality was shown, he thinks it was towards those of the South. We hear this on every side, and believe the Grand Encampment a good thing to promote union of hearts. And, dear Brother DeLap! anything that promotes union of hearts and sentiments is not an "excessence."

The cost of headquarters was not heavy on the Grand Treasury, and of the \$250 drawn out \$150 was returned.

The enthusiasm of the R. E. who wanted to commence forthwith to make arrangements for Pittsburg, was not shared by the rest. It is a bad season to prepare for such an occasion, and it would be providential if there were not so much at Pittsburg to divert attention from business as there was at Boston.

From Grand Recorder's report, we are sorry to learn that he was sick during the year. We have it in mind that he has been elected Secretary of State, and will congratulate him at all events. He is a grand Secretary for anything. He reports a total membership of only 441, in the twelve Commanderies. There was little business to transact beyond the formal reports and election of officers. Sir J. M. Buchanan, of Meridian, was chosen Grand Commander, and the place of meeting depends on Grand Lodge. Grand Treasurer Bahin was created an honorary Past Grand Commander. The dead were affectionately remembered—Walker, Marshall, Fant.

Brother DeLap's Correspondence Report is No. 16, and lacks nothing of its accustomed vigor. He opens with a chorus, and keeps it up throughout. Anyone who was not accustomed to Brother DeLap's use of strong language might judge him devoid of charity, but such is merely the intrusion of ill-health. Total abstinence is safest, but it is not the only definition of temperance. With him, we fully believe that no demand of hospitality, such as a Christian Knight should dispense, requires intoxicating beverages, but we wouldn't consign to perdition those who think differently. We are surprised that one who has not attended Grand Encampments any more than Frater DeLap, should have such a poor opinion of them. But anyone who has seen how it transacts business, might be pardoned for such freedom of opinion. There is power and abundant ability, but so many diversions, interruptions, and obstacles that it needs a rough-handed autocrat to push forward any

business. Montana receives kind attention that leaves nothing to complain of, but our Brother evidently has little faith in anything but force to exclude the Turk from Palestine. We are not blood-thirsty, even towards the Turk or the Indian. We must believe that God created them for some good purpose, though we have failed to find it out. Really, there are few inhabitants of any race in Palestine to turn out. Give the country a strong, liberal, and intelligent government, and sufficient police to protect life and property, and the conquest would be made by those going there to reclaim it to beauty and fertility. It is the curse of man, not of God, that rests on Palestine. The country, intelligently cultivated, could sustain easily ten times the population now there, and those incapable of elevation and improvement would die out by natural process. If the demand were made on Turkey, by the united voice of Christendom, backed by power to enforce compliance with its demands, we do not think any more would be needed, and we would feel that with Christendom united to secure liberation, it would remain united to protect it and to aid its settlement and reclamation. Brother DeLap may think, as he says, that the world is going from bad to worse, but we cannot concur. It is like our Mississippi River, which in many places appears to be running north, but its main course is still south. God reigns, and nations as well as individuals are acting their parts under His eye, and He can make even the wrath of men to praise Him. We hardly see how Brother DeLap can believe in Christ and think the world going to the bad. Did Christ die in vain? It is impossible! Our chief reproach against the religion of the false prophet is that it was preached and propagated with fire and sword, but this is not the way that Christ taught, and he rebuked his disciples when they desired him to call down fire from heaven to destroy certain wicked people. We believe in the victories of peace, the weapons of peace, and the empire of peace. War may be necessary at times, but it is a terrible necessity, almost as injurious to the victor as the vanquished. When God's time comes to liberate Palestine, it will be done, and we think the time is close at hand. Let us be ready to answer when the summons comes to redress the great crime of centuries with all the power and means we can interest in that behalf. We appreciate fully our good Brother's prayers in our behalf, and in this deliverance, in which we have grown to have such an interest that we only wonder that any can regard it with indifference.

Notwithstanding our brother's earnest protest against the idea, we are not disposed to change our opinion. The fact that the world is growing worse and not better, is no evidence that Christ, our Lord, has died in vain. He provided salvation for every man, and the fact that *all* do not accept the proffered mercy, is no sign that the sacrifice was in vain. Millions of souls in glory to-day, while millions more are on the way to the Heavenly City, too surely prove that the tragedy of Calvary was not fruitless.

On page 67 of the pamphlet, we find an "Address to Helena Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar, May 17th, 1896, Sunday after Ascension Day, by Rev. J. M. Streater," which we consider a real literary gem.

R. E. Cornelius Hedges is Grand Commander; R. E. Edward D. Neill is Grand Recorder. The Grand Commander is also the Reporter.

## NEBRASKA—1896.

The Twenty-fourth Annual was held in the city of Omaha, April 16th. Present: R. E. Sir Chas. B. Finch, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Wm. R. Bowen, Grand Recorder, all the Grand Officers except Prelate, and delegates from 19 of the 23 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a comparatively short paper but is well written. Proper respect is paid to the memory and worth of the knightly dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions. His dispensations were for proper purposes and his decisions in accord with Nebraska law.

The proceedings were devoid of general interest. We note that Committees are "detailed," not appointed, thus emphasizing the military character of the Institution. A specimen brick of the minutes reads as follows: "Sir Tulley's 14 submitted the following report from the *detail* on Doings of Grand Officers, etc." Total membership 1712, a gain of 56. Or in good, growing shape. A fine likeness of Grand Commander Finch makes the frontispiece of the pamphlet. They are too poor to indulge in a Correspondence report, although they go through the farce of "detailing" a squad for that duty, each year. R. E. Sir R. P. R. Mellae is Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Wm. R. Bowen is Grand Recorder.

## NEW YORK--1896.

Eighty-third Annual was held in the City of Utica, September 8th. There were present: Horace A. Noble, Grand Commander; Sir Jno. F. Shafer, Grand Recorder; all the other Grand Officers, 12 Past Grand Commanders, and delegates from 58 Subordinate Commanderies.

After the opening our good Bro. Anthony presented to the Grand Commander "a basket of beautiful flowers as a home greeting from the wife of the recipient." After this pleasant little episode sundry eloquent speeches were made pro and con along the line of welcome, from the Mayor and the local Commandery.

We copy the following as being of interest to all and especially to Bro. Barkley:

## INVITATION TO VISIT THE "HOME."

In extending an invitation to the Sir Knights to visit the "Home," Sir Jesse B. Anthony said:

*R. E. Grand Commander and Knights of the Grand Commandery:*

It would generally be regarded as superfluous to extend to another a welcome to his own home, and yet, coming as you do from all parts of this Empire State to engage in the labors incident to these Annual Conclaves, it may not be regarded as wholly amiss to voice to you the "Home" greeting of those who form a part of that grandest of Masonic charities—your Masonic Home.

As brethren, companions and Sir Knights, all have an equal interest in this great work, and equal pride in its magnitude, the same earnest wish for its complete success.

Coming to the city of Utica, within whose corporate limits it is situated, it affords me pleasure, as the Superintendent thereof, to invite you, at your convenience, to visit and inspect the crystalization of the work of the craft—the Masonic Home of the State of New York.

You will appreciate the impossibility of being in two places at the same time, hence if I cannot extend to you a *personal* greeting at the Home—should it be your pleasure to make a visit thereto—be assured that you will be courteously welcomed and have every opportunity for its inspection.

Carry with you, Sir Knights, from your short sojourn in this city, not solely the recollection of the pleasures incident to this knightly gathering, but also the gratification of a knowledge of what is emphasized and embraced in the words "Our Masonic Home."

Then followed the address of the R. E. Grand Commander, which is an elegant business paper containing an epitome of his entire administration. He made but one decision, which, considering the size of the Body, is remarkable. As the case is a little out of the usual we quote it entire.

One of the Commanders in this jurisdiction states the following case, and asks for a decision, namely:

At a regular conclave of his Commandery, a Past Commander made a motion that the Secretary of a Chapter located in the same place be requested to advise the Commandery of the names of any Companions, members of this Commandery, who had been dropped from the rolls of the Chapter for non-payment of dues. This motion was carried, and the Secretary of the Chapter being present, made a verbal report at that time that three Companions (members of the Commandery), giving their names, had been so dropped by the Chapter. The Commander then declared them suspended from the Commandery. He says:

FIRST—Was the Commander right in entertaining the motion?

SECOND—Was he right or wrong in declaring the Sir Knights suspended?

To which I replied:

FIRST—The ruling of the Commander in entertaining the motion was correct.

SECOND—The action of the Commander in declaring these Knights suspended upon the verbal report of the Secretary of the Chapter was wrong, and must be rescinded at the next conclave of the Commandery.

The proper proceeding in this case would have been for the Recorder of the Commandery to have sent to the Chapter a copy of the resolution adopted by the Commandery, and upon receipt of a communication from the Chapter (and under its seal) giving the information asked for, the Commandery would then be in a position to summon these Knights to show cause why they should not be dropped from the rolls. No member of a Commandery can be lawfully dropped from the rolls or suspended by his Commandery without being given due and timely notice, and an opportunity to be heard in his own defense.

We are inclined to dissent from the second clause of the decision, confessing our inability to see the impropriety of accepting a verbal report from the Secretary, he being a Templar. We note that the decision was sustained by the Grand Body.

He objects to the law of the Grand Encampment making represen-



tation in that body equal from all the Grand Commanderies, under which law the (nearly) 30,000 Templars of New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Pennsylvania are entitled to no more or larger representation in the central body than Arizona, Indian Territory and Florida have with their aggregate membership of only 435. The fact being as stated, we think the point well taken. Although the rule is borrowed from the composition of the Senate of the United States the similarity stops right there. The Grand Encampment resembles more the lower house of Congress, in which each State is represented in proportion to population.

The address is an exceptionally good one but is devoted almost wholly to local interests. The matter was referred to a Committee and ably considered, the principle being fully endorsed, but the action had at Boston showed the futility of attempting to have the law accord with the principles of common sense and ordinary justice. However, a committee was raised to memorialize the Grand Encampment, and offering an amendment to its Constitution, making *taxation of Grand Commanderies equal in amount*. This would cure the sore pretty effectually, or burst the concern up, and we hope it will prevail.

Eloquent and touchingly beautiful tribute is paid to the knightly dead by Sir and Recorder C. L. Twing, Chairman of the Necrology Committee. The proceedings are mostly of local interest. The Order is in excellent shape, prosperous and grand, as becomes the Empire State.

Our distinguished and learned friend and Bro. Jesse B. Anthony is the architect of the Correspondence report, covering 135 pages, and is able and exhaustive, courteous and considerate. The doings of nearly all the Templar legislatures are carefully passed upon in this admirable paper and it is good reading from start to finish. We copy his opening *in extenso*:

*To the Grand Commandery of the State of New York :*

We submit herewith the report on Correspondence for the year 1896. We have sought to embrace therein all matters of importance, and in any criticism thereon have labored for the common good. We ask your consideration for the review.

The anticipation that the Grand Encampment, at its last Triennial, would solve some questions upon which there is an element of uncertainty, an apparent conflict with recent enactments by Grand Lodges, and also to perfect the much needed revision of the Constitution and Digest of the Grand Body, did not materialize, and from all along the line dissatisfaction is expressed at this seeming neglect of matters of grave importance to the Order. The Triennial was a magnificent success in its festivities and pleasures, but a failure in all other respects.

The tidings from the several camps are of the most encouraging character, and the reputation of the Order to-day is of a more elevated character than ever before. To maintain its high prestige demands of its followers—from the Sir Knight to the Grand Commander—a strict conformity to the obligations enjoined, obedience to the elevating teachings of Templarism, practical exemplification of the duties of pure charity and beneficence, a correct walk and deportment in harmony with the spirit of Christian Knighthood, and a laudable ambition for its pre-

eminence in all those essentials which go to make up a good and successful organization.

The past year has added to the official roster three new Grand Commanderies, viz.: Florida, Indian Territory and District of Columbia, and with our congratulations and earnest wish for their prosperity, we extend a personal greeting and hearty welcome.

With a courteous greeting to the members of the Home circle, as well as to all in correspondence, we present our review of the proceedings of forty-two Grand Commanderies, together with those of the Grand Encampment.

Our brother's notice of Mississippi for 1896 is full and fraternal. We clip the following from his review of our last effort:

New York for 1895 has merited attention. We never measure reports from a financial standpoint. Each Grand Commandery fixes that to suit themselves. The particular prominence given to what might be termed a personal matter might well have been omitted. If it can be said at all times "that our (New York) report will compare very favorably with that of Frater DeLap's," we shall be well satisfied.

"How is that for high?" Well, if the statement made was correct, it would be high enough. The per diem paid to the representatives in the Grand Commandery of New York is *five* dollars per day, not *ten*.

If we had any criticism to make upon any point in our Frater's report, we should, in doing so, aim to keep within the lines of knightly courtesy. Let us hope he may continue to celebrate with Sir Knight Berry the Christmas libation for more years in the future, than in the past. Call it as you please.

We regret that our pleasantries along the line of finances and compensation should have annoyed our brother, and are pretty sure that if he will read and fully digest his remarks, as quoted above, he will also regret having penned them. Life is too short and eternity too long, to indulge in unkindly criticism of what was intended only as a joke.

We clip his statistical closing with thanks:

Based upon the tables we deduct the following points of interest. In numerical standing the Grand Commanderies take rank in the following order:

|                                                      |        |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Massachusetts and Rhode Island (Sept. 30, 1895)..... | 11,499 |
| Pennsylvania (April 30, 1895).....                   | 10,943 |
| New York (May 30, 1895).....                         | 10,710 |
| Illinois.....                                        | 9,355  |
| Ohio.....                                            | 7,914  |
| Michigan.....                                        | 5,457  |
| Missouri.....                                        | 4,234  |
| Iowa.....                                            | 4,173  |
| Indiana.....                                         | 3,493  |
| Kansas.....                                          | 3,247  |

Grand Commanderies which have Commanderies of the largest membership:

|                                                       |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Massachusetts—Boston, No. 2, Boston.....              | 884 |
| Illinois—St Bernard, No. 35, Chicago.....             | 690 |
| Pennsylvania—Mary, No. 36, Philadelphia.....          | 666 |
| District of Columbia—Columbia, No. 2, Washington..... | 588 |
| New York—Malta, No. 21, Binghampton.....              | 526 |

|                                              |     |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| Connecticut—Washington, No. 1, Hartford..... | 518 |
| Ohio—Oriental, No. 12, Cleveland.....        | 465 |
| Colorado—Colorado, No. 1, Denver.....        | 430 |
| Michigan—Detroit, No. 1, Detroit.....        | 422 |
| Missouri—St. Aldemar, No. 18, St. Louis..... | 401 |
| Minnesota—Zion, No. 2, Minneapolis.....      | 390 |
| Maine—Portland, No. 2, Portland.....         | 371 |
| Kentucky—De Molay, No. 12, Louisville.....   | 335 |

The average of membership to each Commandery is graded as follows:

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| District of Columbia.....           | 313 |
| Massachusetts and Rhode Island..... | 255 |
| Connecticut.....                    | 209 |
| New Hampshire.....                  | 199 |
| New York.....                       | 185 |
| Maine.....                          | 153 |
| Pennsylvania.....                   | 150 |
| Ohio.....                           | 146 |
| Vermont.....                        | 146 |
| Illinois.....                       | 144 |

The total membership shows an increase the past year of 4,231, equal to 3.99 per cent.

The additions from new work show a gain of 7.50 per cent.

The losses by dismission and for non-payment of dues aggregate 3.68 per cent, against 3.18 per cent last year's report.

The proportion of Knights Templar to Master Masons in the United States is in the ratio of 110.201 to 748.264; equal to 1 to 6.79.

The proportion of Knights Templar to Royal Arch Masons in the United States is in the ratio of 110.201 to 196.714; equal to 1 to 1.78.

R. E. Sir Jno. A. Mapes is Grand Commander; Sir Jno. F. Shafer, Grand Recorder; R. E. Sir Jesse B. Anthony, Chairman Correspondence Committee.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE—1896.

The Annual Conclave was held in the city of Concord, September 29th. There were present: R. E. Sir Daniel C. Roberts, Grand Commander; E. Sir Geo. P. Cleaves, Grand Recorder; the entire staff, 15 Past Grand Commanders, a lot of Past Eminent Commanders, 28 Grand Representatives, including ours, who is the presiding officer, and representatives of seven Subordinate Commanderies, out of eleven. The Grand Commander's address is an able and exhaustive *resumé* of his administration, which was alike honorable to himself and satisfactory to his command.

We copy his "Opening Chorus," because it is mighty good reading and full of beauty and sound sense:

SIR KNIGHTS—I have the honor to appear before this Grand Commandery for the second time to give account of my stewardship. Our occasions for thanksgiving to Almighty God have been many and considerable during the past year. Our nation has been at peace, our country has weathered financial stress and storm, and the commercial skies are brighter; and our own commonwealth, while feeling the pres-

sure of the times, has had less of disaster and prostration than many have feared. These are times of peril and anxiety, and it is necessary that every man's heart should be right, every man's head be cool, every man's hand be strong. At such great crises in human affairs the characteristic feature and quality of Masonry is of a value beyond our powers of calculation. It is that firm but elastic bond of brotherhood which binds men together in love, while it leaves every one absolutely free to consider and determine the great question of the world's debate upon their merits, as they appear and appeal to him. The principles upon which government shall be conducted and the social order established are determined by scientific discussion, political contest, or even arbitrament of war, without break or strain to the chain of brotherly love which with love's unreason binds in love the hearts of men who are ready to surrender their lives upon opposite sides of a great contention. This is the mystery and marvel of Masonry. And we add to this the tremendous sanctions of the Christian religion upon which this our valiant and magnanimous Order is founded. True men are they who are moulded by this power, and the ideal Knight Templar is a mirror of Christian chivalry. Few there are who attain to this glorious measure, but the ideal is there and it is a great thing, even to the least of the men who have received our Orders, to have such an ideal always before them. And I believe it is also a great thing for the country. Differ as you please, Sir Knight, in politics and religion, but have some politics and some religion, and foster them in the soul of a Knight Templar.

There have been some differences of opinion in regard to questions concerning our own affairs, but they have been settled and disposed of in a noble and conciliatory spirit, and there is harmony to-day throughout our jurisdiction. I cordially congratulate you upon this state of affairs.

The R. E. does not believe in "perpetual jurisdiction," and makes some sensible remarks on the subject. His dispensations were all for practical purposes.

Proceedings local—Order in good shape. Total membership 2,060, a gain of 67.

Our practical and valued friend and brother, A. S. Wait, is again the author of the Correspondence report, which covers 100 pages, digests the transactions of 42 Templar legislatures, including ours for '96, and is, like all the literary children of its author, of the very best possible sort. Mississippi is honored with a full and fraternal notice covering nearly eight pages. He says of our proceedings that he was interested in them from the opening of the Conclave to the end of the report. He quotes quite freely from Bro. Jenkins' address and has this to say of Bro. Power:

The Grand Recorder, Sir Knight John L. Power, submits his twenty-sixth annual report. The following from the introductory paragraph will not fail to attract the attention of the Sir Knights in general, while their sympathies will be extended for the suffering through which he has passed, and he may be assured of their congratulations that he is spared for continued usefulness.

His review of our report, while courteous all the time, yet has an element, or vein, in it indicating the opinion that this committee is rather presumptuous in expressing an opinion in opposition to those held by

the distinguished members of the Order in New England, and especially in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Hear him :

Again, reviewing Massachusetts :

When will our Northern and Eastern brethren learn that there are no foreign jurisdictions within the limits of the United States, that we are one family and have a right to visit each other and take tea, without any red tape?

So it seems, the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the oldest of the Grand Commanderies of the American continent, and where Masonry has flourished from the earliest times, as well as the rest of the "Northern and Eastern" Jurisdictions, where Masonry and Knight Templary have their origin from a time ante-dating the existence of the nation, must go to school to our brethren of Mississippi to receive instruction in the principles of sound and just Masonic law and usage! Did it ever occur to our excellent frater DeLap that, surrounded as Masonry is in our time by Odd Fellowship, and the thousand and one other mercenary associations like Israel in the midst of the worshipers of Baal, we are liable, indeed, have already been, led away by their pomp and show to the adoption of their corrupt and corrupting usages? Has human nature so changed in modern times that men, although Masons, may not mistake the high places of Baalim for the abodes of the living God?

It seems to this writer that our Bro's critique of the little squib quoted, is unworthy of its author. If the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, old as it is, eminent for Masonic and Templar lore as we know it to be, is not aware of the facts stated in our squib and can't learn them nearer home, why then, let her come to Mississippi and we will endeavor to teach her that this country of ours is under the control of a central government, which, while not interfering with the domestic affairs of the several States, has, nevertheless, sufficient power to render the title of "foreign" as applied by one State to another, a misnomer, and the rule holds good in Templary as well as elsewhere.

We quote again :

Bro. DeLap copies the observations of our Grand Commander Roberts in regard to the prefix Sir, or Sir Knight, in designating a Knight Templar, calls it "much ado about nothing," and expresses the opinion that it is too trivial a matter to engage the attention of so intelligent a man. We will here only spend the time to say that we have seen this passage from Grand Commander Roberts' address quoted by several Templar writers of acknowledged ability and Templar learning, with comments very opposite to the tone of those remarks.

We can but think that Grand Commander Roberts was especially unfortunate in the time at which Sir Knight DeLap reached his review of the proceedings of New Hampshire. In his closing address he repeated these lines :

Onward, Christian soldier,  
Marching as to war,  
With the Cross of Jesus,  
Going on before.

This our courteous frater characterizes as a "jingle of modern ma-

chine poetry," and continues: "We are glad it was not 'original matter' and hope its author felt well enough after fulminating it to do something practically sensible."

Now, it is evident that our frater of Mississippi does not know the origin of the hymn of which these lines are the first stanza. He will probably exclaim that he don't want to know. We think it worth while, however, to inform him that its author was, S. Baring Gould, one of the distinguished literateurs of England to-day. On its appearance it was received with such commendation that it was set to music by Sir Arthur Sullivan, probably the foremost musical composer of the British Empire of our time. It has ever since been repeated and sung as widely as extends English speech as the best expression extant of the spirit which should animate the Christian. Where else can be found so exact an expression of the type of the true Knight Templar? Simple, it is true, and unambitious is the diction; but that is true of all poetry which reaches the inner sentiments of men. Sir Knight Roberts as a scholar and gentleman of literary culture and attainments needs no vindication where he is known, and we assure our good Sir Knight of Mississippi that he is not likely to draw from unworthy literary sources, or to avail himself of a literary composition without knowing its author. We have thus spent too much time upon the matter, and our justification is that we can but regard this criticism of our Mississippi frater extraordinary."

For our offense, as condemned in the first paragraph of the above, we will apologize, if Bro. Wait so desires.

Replying to our friend's observations anent the "jingle" poetry matter, we desire to say that we have recently discovered that the hymn of which the verse quoted is the first, is one of the standard hymns of the M. E. Church South, was selected by a committee made up of Bishops and doctors of divinity, and its presence in the hymn book would commend it to our judgment if there was an element, however small, of poetic merit in the composition. But notwithstanding its endorsement by the Great Lights of my own church, the endorsement of Bros. Roberts and Wait, and the fact that its author was S. Baring Gould and that it was set to music by Sir Arthur Sullivan, Mozart, Bethooven or John Smith, makes no sort of difference—it is still a *jingle* and will so remain until the end of the chapter. It has always been a matter of profound astonishment to us to observe the propensity of our people, and particularly those of the North and East, to laud and admire everything English or foreign. Some of them actually talk and act as though they were ashamed of being Americans, and herein lies the secret of much of the commendations of Tennyson's alleged poetry by Americans. If we were to say that Longfellow, Bryant, Whittier, Field and other American poets were vastly superior in their productions to the best English poets, since Shakespeare, these loving little ducks would hold up their hands in holy horror, and yet the statement would be literally true.

We do not wish to be understood as putting Bro. Wait in the class of idiots referred to, but we do wish to be understood as having the opinion that because a man has written some good things that *all* his literary

efforts are bound to be good. Tennyson's "Charge of the Heavy Brigade" is not up to the standard of a first-class "jingle" and he was the Poet Laureate of England, and a Lord! Bro. W. says the R. E. would not be likely to avail himself of a literary production without knowing its author, from which we infer that it depends altogether upon who the author is in determining the value of the work along this line. Josh Billings once sent a poem, of his make, to a magazine for publication. The editor wrote him as follows: "Dear Sir: You may be a damned fool, but you are no poet! Y'r's in haste." And the same response would surely come back if some of these great lights in the world of poesy had no other backing than the poetic worth of their productions.

Bro. W. has this to say anent "Bosting" and the Triennial:

Referring to our observations upon the triennial at Boston, Bro. DeLap says: "As it amounted to nothing, in the direction of benefit to the Order, as usual, we are somewhat surprised that our good brother would waste his time and talents upon it." So far as relates to legislation and business it is undoubtedly true that the late triennial failed to realize the expectations of the members in general of the Order. In other respects its success was such as fairly to be regarded as phenomenal. We do not doubt that it has done more to sweep away existing sectional estrangement and to renew and strengthen the ties of union among all sections of our common country than any one cause, we believe, than all other causes together, during more than the past quarter of a century. Pageant and show may be said—is often said—to be of little worth. So does it not strike our minds in this case. Spectacular exhibition is, and has been in all ages, the delight of all classes and conditions of men. At Boston the gratification of this sentiment awakened at the time in the breasts of the people of the most distant states the higher and deeper sentiments of union and brotherly love. The influence of the occasion was not only wide but will be permanent, insuring the union of our country, with its untold blessings, to latest time. It was a wave set in motion which will continue even when the event itself will be forgotten. In this view it was worth to this nation many, infinitely many, times its cost. To the Order of Knights Templar of this country is due in greater degree than to any other the honor of setting this mighty, this holy influence in motion, and the glory of the achievement will not be clouded by the fact that its highest ideal of legislation may not have been realized.

We are glad if the concern has done any good, even indirectly, but deny that it has ever been of the smallest benefit towards the dissemination of the pure principles of the Orders of Knighthood. We have devoted much space to New Hampshire but do not apologize.

R. E. Sir Jno. Hatch is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### NEW JERSEY—1896.

Thirty-eighth Annual at Trenton, May 12th. There were present: Sir Edward Mills, R. E. Grand Commander; Chas. Bechtel, Grand Recorder; 15 Past Grand Commanders, about 50 Past Commanders, the representatives of 25 State Grand Commanderies and delegates from 13 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is quite lengthy but is a well written and interesting *resume* of his administration. He reports having visited every Commandery in the State and that more than ordinary interest and zeal was manifested. He thinks the expenses of the visiting officer should be paid by the Grand Body, which was made the law.

His dispensations were all for legitimate purposes.

Ten pages are devoted to a vexed case of insubordination by Cœur de Lion Commandery No. 8, of Brunswick, the officers of which kicked out of the traces, defied both the Grand Body and its heads! All this ended in the arrest and forfeiture of its charter and it was stricken from the roll.

The Committee on Doings of Grand Officers reported as follows on the case, which was adopted :

After listening to the comprehensive and searching address of the R. E. Grand Commander regarding the contumacious Commandery, it seems superfluous to add more than to approve his recommendation that the Warrant of Cœur de Lion Commandery be declared forfeited. What a sad commentary upon the perversity of men who obstinately refused to do a little act of Knightly courtesy of issuing Dimits, but prefer the ignoble notoriety of vain contention with superior authority. The prolix and tedious appeal to the Grand Encampment was ridiculed and ignored ; but the conspirators are still "stubborn to justice" (as Shakespeare puts it), and afterwards dared to hold clandestine meetings. But happily not all the members of this defunct Commandery foolishly follow the lead of those who have wrought this wrong. These faithful ones belong to us and we hope they will raise their fallen standard, and resume their places in our ranks as worthy and obedient Templars.

The Committee feel that it is futile to attempt to reform defiant violators of solemn vows, and that extreme measures should be taken with the guilty, and an end put to this farce, so that it shall not come up again. They are joined to their idols. The Golden Rule is misunderstood. They cannot put themselves in the place of another, and enter into his feelings and view things from another's standpoint. This is the foundation upon which human rights are recognized, that freedom is extended, that the duties of sympathy and helpfulness are made manifest. The more frequently we leave the narrow sphere of our own selfish interests, and project our conceptions into those of others, the more easy and natural will it become for us to be generous, charitable and sympathetic, and loyal Knights of the Cross.

We clip from his " conclusion :"

Fraters, we are to be congratulated on the harmony that prevails in our Commanderies. Not a single question has been asked during the year requiring a decision on Templar Law, thus clearly showing that the principles of our Order must be firmly planted in the hearts of our Sir Knights.

The annual returns show that our Subordinate Commanderies are in a prosperous condition, and while the gains in membership may not be large, yet it is a sure and healthy growth, adding such only to our ranks as will fully exemplify in their lives the beautiful lessons and truths of our Ritual.

This indicates that, in the opinion of the R. E., who is doubtless a



married man and used to war, the little scrimmage referred to above, don't count.

Several of the staff also made reports of inspection.

The proceedings are local. Order in good shape financially and numerically. Total membership 1,736, a gain of 117.

The Correspondence is, as usual, the work of Grand Recorder Bechtel and reviews the minutes of 41 Templar legislatures in a report covering 60 pages. Our Bro. Charles devotes less than half a page to our pamphlet for 1895, but the little he does say being pleasant and courteous we won't complain. Under Iowa we find this:

"*Fifth.* A 'traveling man' who had no home, and was dimitted in Lodge and Chapter, petitioned a Commandery for the Orders of Knighthood. Held, first, that the Commandery could not receive such petition of one not a resident within its jurisdiction. Second, that a candidate not in good standing in Lodge or Chapter is not eligible to receive the Orders."

Where would one in good standing receive his Orders under such conditions of residence, or, rather, non-residence? Must a petitioner for Templar Orders, a worthy subject for the same, be debarred because his conditions of life or occupation require him to be migratory? We think not; and in our jurisdiction we do not require an applicant to be a member of Blue Lodge and Chapter—we require him to be in *good Masonic standing*; but a dimitted Mason is not nor can he ever be called "not in good standing," and we fail to find anything in the Statutes of the Grand Encampment defining this condition as such. We are fully aware of the difference of opinion prevailing in the several jurisdictions throughout the land, and must, in all fairness, allow them the same privilege we claim for ourselves—freedom of thought and interpretation—but we cannot help feeling that many a good Templar is unjustly and harshly dealt with in this matter. The Committee on Jurisprudence does not concur in the sentiments of R. E. Sir Clements in this matter.

We are not in accord with our brother's feeling "that *many good* Templars are unjustly and harshly dealt with in this matter." There are *no good Templars who are not, also, good Blue Lodge Masons, and good Master Masons*, nine times out of ten belong to a Lodge, support its treasury and patronize or attend its communications.

We are inclined to think that this is about the best report Bro. B. has made.

Sir Robert Dingwell is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### NORTH CAROLINA—1896.

The Sixteenth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Newbern, May 13th. There were present: R. E. Sir W. S. Liddell, Grand Commander; E. Sir H. H. Munson, Grand Recorder; Past Grand Commanders, other Past Grand Officers and Past Eminent Commanders, and Representatives of 9 out of 10 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a business document, well written and to the point.

Appropriate mention is made of the magnanimous dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions.

He says, anent dispensations: "I have cheerfully and readily granted all dispensations that have been asked of me." All of which meets our hearty endorsement. If the Subordinate Commanderies ask for these things, the asking is sufficient evidence that the interests of the Order will be advanced by compliance with the request.

Much space is devoted to the "General Orders," which contain nothing of general interest. His visitations were quite general.

He has this to say in regard to the Xmas Observance:

As my predecessor in office issued a general order regarding Christmas observance, I did likewise, but I am not at all satisfied as to its advisability. The Grand Commander each year must issue an order that all Commanderies within this jurisdiction may observe any or all of the following days: Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and Ascension Day; it would seem that this should be sufficient. The Knights Templar of North Carolina are, as a rule, men of mature years and heads of families. If there is a day above all others that a man should spend with his family, it is Christmas, and it would seem that the majority of our members felt that way on last Christmas Day. Four out of the twelve Commanderies of the State reported to me that the order had been complied with, and if the other three were no more enthusiastic than the one I was present at, I fear that the custom will never be popular in North Carolina.

We are inclined to think that a private and special observance of this custom, as it was in the beginning, was preferable to the present plan. We clip his "Recommendations" bodily:

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

I recommend that a Committee on Triennial Encampment at Pittsburg be appointed at this session. The time is not too long, as it will enable them to provide ways and means, as well as to secure comfortable and accessible quarters before all desirable ones have been appropriated.

I recommend the restoration of the cuffs. We wear our uniforms so seldom that we can afford to endure a little discomfort for the sake of appearance.

I recommend that inasmuch as a number of Subordinate Commanderies have signified a desire to contribute as Knights Templar to the special fund being raised for the enlargement and better equipment of Oxford Asylum this year, the Grand Treasurer be authorized to receive these contributions, adding thereto the contribution of this Grand Commandery, which shall equal in amount that of any Subordinate Commandery, and tender same to the committee appointed by the Grand Lodge to raise this fund, as the contribution of the Knights Templar of North Carolina and not of any specified Commandery or Commanderies. Too many Master Masons regard us an ornamental body. We can display our connection with, veneration for, and fidelity to Ancient Craft Masonry to better advantage by contributing to their recognized charity than by flowery speeches or nicely worded resolutions.

The proceedings are local. The Order seems to be prosperous and in good shape. Total membership 347—a loss of 1.

Bro. J. C. Chase presented his report on Correspondence, which, like the other two, is first-class in all respects. The report covers 126 pages, and considers the doings of most of the Templar world, including Mississippi for 1895. Bro. Chase's attention to our pamphlet is full and very courteous. We clip this:

The Prelate was requested to attend the Triennial as the guest of the Grand Commandery. Very courteous, to be sure, but they must have had some suspicions as to what they were going to encounter on the journey, to lead them to consider the necessity of taking their clerical adviser along.

Portraits of Grand Commander Jenkins and Sir R. B. Brannin appear in the proceedings. An elaborate memorial to deceased officers of other jurisdictions appears from the ready pen of Sir Knight Frederic Speed.

That same Prelate is in Natchez now, trying by good, earnest gospel preaching to do some good in the way of reviving an extremely dead church. He is a benediction, wherever you find him, and the Mississippi delegation were blessed if they had his company.

The report is an excellent one, and its author deserves the commendation of his brethren.

Sir William B. Withers is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Horace H. Munson, Grand Recorder; Sir John C. Chase, Correspondent.

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#### NORTH DAKOTA—1896.

The Seventh Annual was held in the city of Fargo, June 12th. R. E. Clarence A. Hale, Grand Commander, presiding; Sir Frank J. Thompson, Grand Recorder. All the Grand Officers were in their places and the Representatives of seven Subordinate Commanderies were present.

A portrait of the R. E. adorns the title page of the pamphlet, and his address takes up about one-quarter of the entire book. It is a carefully and well written *resume* of his official acts and deliverances, in which we find but little of general interest.

We clip the following from his opening:

When placed in command one year ago, I then stated that I realized the great responsibility I assumed, but I assure you not to that extent which the past year's experience has most clearly demonstrated, and had I then fully realized it would have felt it my duty to have taken my place as a private in the ranks, rather than to have accepted the Sword of Command of the Grand Commander of the State of North Dakota, and I trust you will judge as you would be judged.

Only remarking that had he possessed the power to look into the future, he would have accepted the "responsibilities" just the same.

We also cull the following, because the poetry strikes us as being above the average, while the sentence that follows it, records a remarkable fact:

Before entering upon the work we are here to perform, let us pause and pay due reverence to our departed and beloved Fraters.

NECROLOGY.

"The silver cord in twain has snapped,  
The golden bowl is broken,  
The mortal mould in darkness wrapped,  
The words funeral spoken;  
The tomb is built, or the rock is cleft,  
Or delved is the grassy clod,  
And what for mourning man is left  
O what is left—but God.

The tears are shed that mourned the dead,  
The flowers they wore are faded;  
The twilight dun hath veiled the sun,  
And hopes sweet dreamings shaded.  
And the thoughts of joy that were planted deep  
From our heart of hearts are riven;  
And what is left us when we weep,  
O what is left—but heaven."

For the first time during the existence of this Grand Commandery do we record the death of one of its members.

Then follows a sketch of the life and Templar services of Past Grand Commander M. A. Brewer, who passed to his reward during the year.

Appropriate notice is made of the Knightly dead of other jurisdictions.

The proceedings are devoid of anything of general interest. Total membership 427.

There is no report on Correspondence. Our Dakota brethren being more devoted to art than literature. Every one to her taste, as the old lady said when she kissed the cow.

R. E. Sir William T. Perkins is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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OKLAHOMA—1896.

On the 10th of February ultimo, the representatives of the three Commanderies of Oklahoma Territory met at Guthrie and organized the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma, under a warrant from the Grand Master, in ample and due form, and that body is now of the sisterhood of Grand Commanderies. The Grand Commander, R. E. Sir Cassius McDonald Barnes, then made a short address, which is confined to local matters. Total membership 130. We wish the new sister all possible prosperity and success.

R. E. Sir C. M. Barnes is Grand Commander; Sir H. S. Cunningham is Grand Recorder. No Committee on Correspondence.

## OHIO—1896.

The Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Dayton, Oct. 14th. There were present: R.: E.: Sir Jno. P. McCaul, Grand Commander; Sir Jno. Bell, Grand Recorder; all the other Grand Officers, 12 Past Grand Commanders, one Past Grand Generalissimo, 29 Grand Representatives (including ours) a multitude of Past Eminent Commanders and the representatives of 53 out of 54 Subordinate Commanderies. The occasion was a notable one; the entertainment of the Grand Body by the City of Dayton and Reed Commandery was superb, and our Buckeye brethren had a gay old time. The Grand Commander's address is quite lengthy but well written and is an epitome of an apparently successful administration. From his opening we excerpt the following:

But greetings, congratulations and the pleasures of the hour are not all that has called us together at this time. The past is to be reviewed, the present to be considered, and conclusions drawn and legislation enacted, looking to the future welfare and prosperity of our beloved Order.

Our Grand Prelate has in fitting terms returned thanks to the Almighty for the many blessings vouchsafed us during the past year, for the comparatively small encroachments on our ranks, and for the peace and harmony which has prevailed in our midst, and we all devoutly join him in asking the continuance of the Grace of God upon us and our Order.

Death has been busy in the ranks of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, the R.: E.: reporting twelve members of the body, among them Past Grand Commander Henry H. Tatem, and Past Grand Sword Bearer, Wm. S. Hufford. Peace to their ashes.

Appropriate mention is made of the Knightly dead of sister jurisdictions, from which we note that ten Past Grand Commanders have crossed the River of Death and entered upon the realities of the Eternal World.

He reports the total membership as being 8071—a net gain of 157.

He made but one decision and that one was sound. His dispensations were numerous, but all for proper purposes. He says: "As the request to appear in uniform on Memorial Day is made every year, and as regularly refused, I am led to suspect that some of our Eminent Commanders are not in the habit of reading our proceedings closely, or they would not ask the identical favor from every Grand Commander." That is about the size of it. The Grand Commandery acted as escort to the Grand Lodge at the dedication of the "Masonic Home" of Ohio, and that noble charity is in full blast, a blessing to its inmates and an honor to the masons of that grand jurisdiction. The address, as a whole, is an excellent one.

In the minutes we find these:

Rt. Em. Sir Knight Enoch T. Carson, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented his report in full, and stated in connection therewith that he, as chairman of the committee, had received

certain discourteous and abusive letters from a member of this Grand Commandery, reflecting unjustly upon the committee and its report as published in the proceedings of the last annual conclave.

On motion of Sir Knight J. Kelly O'Neill, the report of the committee was received and ordered published in the printed proceedings.

On motion of Sir Knight Barton Smith, the matter of writing personal letters criticising the reports of committees which have met the approval of the Grand Commandery, was referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals by a unanimous vote.

On motion of Sir Knight Wm. B. Melish, Sir Knight E. T. Carson was excused from further attendance at this conclave, on account of ill health.

Touching the above the Committee on Grievances submitted the following report, but we regret to say did not include the text of the offensive letter, as they should have done. But here is the report:

*To the Grand Commandery Knights Templars of Ohio:*

Your Committee on Grievances and Appeals respectfully reports, on subject matter formally submitted to it for consideration, as follows:

In the matter of an alleged insult offered the Committee on Correspondence of this Grand Commandery, through a certain disrespectful communication received by its chairman, Rt. Em. Sir E. T. Carson, from a Sir Knight of this Grand Jurisdiction, who is also a member of this Grand Body, your committee has very carefully examined the said communication (a copy of which, your committee is advised, was also mailed by the author of the same to the Right Eminent Grand Commander and several other prominent members of this Grand Commandery) and find the communication, as alleged, to be couched in language unwarranted, offensive, discourteous, and unknighly, and a flagrant infraction of the established code of rules and regulations governing this Grand Body, as per resolutions formally adopted at its annual conclave in 1889, which read as follows:

"*Resolved*, That while denying the right of individual thought and expression to none, it is the sense of the Grand Commandery that it is indelicate, improper, and unknighly for any Knight to address a communication to a member of the Grand Commandery, seeking to prejudice him by a partisan statement.

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Grand Commandery that unauthorized circulars, appeals, and public arraignment of the Grand Commandery are wholly unknighly, and subject the perpetrator, if a Commandery or an individual Sir Knight, to Templar discipline."

Your committee therefore recommends that it is the sense of this Grand Commandery that the act of the offending Sir Knight should be and is hereby condemned.

We are at a loss to imagine what there is in Bro. Carson's report in question to call for or justify any adverse criticism, let alone the use of insulting language. However, there *are* some people who do not know a good thing when they see it, and it is probable that the writer of the letter was one of this sort. No doubt our Bro. Enoch gave him a reply that made him feel like he had robbed a hen roost or struck a woman. We note, with profound regret, that our brother was so unwell as to be excused from attendance and we earnestly pray that he may be fully restored and his valuable life prolonged for many years.

Our old and valued Bro. Carson presents his 21st annual report as Correspondent, which, like the twenty that preceded it, is able, exhaustive, spicy and interesting. The report covers 158 pages and digests the minutes of 41 Templar governing bodies, in the author's clear, courteous and comprehensive style, Mississippi for 1896, getting five and a half pages.

Under Arkansas, we find this:

Referring to what the Grand Commander said about the Christmas toast, he has the following:

"Why not make Christmas day a regular day for annual reunion of the character outlined above? An hour's social intercourse on this of all days should help to knit the bond of brotherhood closer, especially if it was understood that at an hour and day present greetings were being exchanged by all Knights Templars throughout the world."

As for ourselves, we prefer to be with our family on Christmas day. There we have the old Templars and the young Templars, the big Templars and the little Templars surrounding the Christmas board. That's the place for an hour's social intercourse on Christmas day. We are called to attend meetings of the Commanderies and other Masonic bodies frequently during the year, and our families should be entitled to hold us at home to participate with them in the Christmas festivities.

We feel exactly like Bro. Enoch on this subject. We also copy this, which we likewise find under Arkansas:

#### BETWEEN ACTS.

We introduce the following characteristic anecdote of Rev. Sam. Jones:

Rev. Sam. P. Jones has been preaching in St. Louis. A few evenings ago he delivered a sermon in which he said:

"Before I was ever a Christian I learned one thing and want you to hear this. I was away from home and was robbed on a train. I had all the money I and my friend both had. He didn't have any and they got mine; and we got off at a station. That was when I was a sinner, and that was twenty-five or twenty-six years ago. He was a steward in the Methodist Church, I was just a plain, common, simple sinner; that is all I was. When we got off at the station we stayed around there a moment or two. He says, 'Sam, I wonder if there is a Mason in this town?' I said, 'A Mason?' He says, 'I can get some money if I can find a Mason.' I said, 'Ain't you a Methodist?' He said, 'Yes.' I said, 'Why don't you go to the Methodists?' 'Oh, shucks, he said, 'I will go to the Masons.' And he struck out, and after a few minutes came back, and I said, 'How did you come out?' 'All right,' he said, 'I got it.' 'Where did you get it from?' 'From a Mason,' he says. 'Sam, if you want to go to Heaven join the Methodists, but if you want a holt down here, join the Masons.' So when I started in I just joined both, and to-night I am a Methodist and a Mason, and I am getting along well for both worlds."

Under Georgia, we find this:

Under Mississippi, he says he is not prepared to give his endorsement to the Templar burial service adopted by that Grand Commandery.

We don't think they had the right to do that. The service as adopted by the Grand Encampment is the only one that can be lawfully used.

Perhaps our brother is right, perhaps not.

His review of our pamphlet is full, pleasant and fraternal.

We should delight to copy a thousand other good things from this most admirable report, but our space will be filled for Ohio when we append our brother's "Conclusion," which is as follows:

#### CONCLUSION.

We are opposed to any and all kinds of Androgynal Freemasonry, that is, to *secret* societies admitting males and females, assuming in any degree a Masonic character or name. We have no objection whatever to female *secret* organizations, even if they take to themselves a Masonic name, if they will only confine membership in their society to their own sex, *absolutely* excluding men from their *secret assemblies*. We most respectfully suggest that the critics on our paper on Androgynal or "Petticoat Freemasonry" note truly what we do say, and why we are opposed to female Masonry with men in it.

One of our private critics writes that "Brother Carson is opposed to our 'wives, mothers, sisters and daughters' organizing themselves into sewing or other societies for the purpose of aiding the Masonic Home and other Masonic charities." The fellow who wrote this succeeded in doing what Dogberry failed to do, recording himself an ass.

If the so-called Masonic female Lodges insist upon it that men—or those so self-styled—shall be admitted to membership in their *secret assemblies*, and if they will make it a part of their ceremonial that the men shall be clothed in petticoats, we won't object, and then when some public grand pageant takes place it will only be proper for those Androgynal male friends who are so glib with their tongues about our "wives, mothers, sisters and daughters" to appear in the procession *a la petticoat*, and thus give countenance and encouragement to their "wives, mothers, sisters and daughters" and demonstrate to the world that they are sincere in their advocacy of "Petticoat Freemasonry." Such a display would form an attractive and possibly amusing feature in the Grand Triennial display at Pittsburg. The "hoary-headed" old foggy Masons can sit on the reviewing stand and witness their dear brothers doing honor to their "wives, mothers, sisters and daughters." If the brothers in *petticoats* can stand it, we think the "hoary-headed" can.

Brother Finch, of Massachusetts, insinuated in his report last year that the Knight of Red Cross, Templar and Malta manuscript Ritual certified by the late Brother Chapman, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as the Ritual of that jurisdiction, and to which we have always referred as our authority for saying that the National Ritual as adopted at St. Louis was from Massachusetts, had probably been tampered with by interlineations, etc., and that Brother Chapman, if he were in the flesh, would not recognize the copy as his work. The whole manuscript is in 117 pages. We have taken the trouble to carefully examine and count the erasures or interlineations contained in it, with the following result: There is but *one* interlineation in it: the thirteenth question in the Red Cross—"what followed?"—appears to have been dropped out of the original; it is supplied by interlineations. This is the same hand as the original.

Will Brother Finch make a note of this, and try to get up some new scheme to show that Carson forged or interlined, etc., that he is a fraud generally? For that is about the measure of Brother Finch's criticisms



on Brother Carson. We are aware that Brother Finch says in his last report that he has ended on this subject. We say to him, that he can not in honor end with his last statement, that the manuscript certified by the late Brother Chapman has been tampered with in any way. We are ready to submit the manuscript at any time to a committee whom Brother Finch may select to examine it, and if such committee finds that we have misrepresented in any way, even to the slightest degree, we will sign a paper acknowledging *that we lied!* That is the way we write it. The only condition we make is that if Brother Finch finds that what we have said about this manuscript is true, he shall say that he retracts his insinuations against us.

We still write "Foreign Correspondence," much to the nervous irritability of some of our conferee correspondents, especially our venerable Brother Woodruff, of Kentucky. As we have said before, we are simply following copy; the Grand Commandery of Ohio says "Committee on Foreign Correspondence." We like it besides; we think it is most appropriate.

We still write "Knights Templars."\* We have never entered into the discussion of this question as to the grammatical use of these words; we make no pretensions in that line. We have been and we are still satisfied to use the words as they were used by such writers as are accepted as authorities in English literature. If they used bad grammar, we are not ashamed to follow them. We believe that some cross-roads rural rooster pedagogue had the honor (?) of discovering that the use of the words "Knights Templars" was bad grammar. This was hard on Addison, Gibbon, Macauley, Scott, etc. However, their writings are still tolerated, and are regarded by many as being in fairly grammatical English. We shall continue to shade ourselves behind them.

We never write "Subordinate Commandery." Commandery is the only proper word to use. There are Grand Commanderies and Commanderies; all Commanderies are subordinate to a Grand Commandery or to the Grand Encampment of the United States, therefore it is surplage to prefix "subordinate."

With this we conclude our twenty-first annual report. If we have said anything in it that is offensive to any of our co-laborers, except, perhaps, *two*, their identity should be apparent to any one who closely reads our report, we apologize in advance. We try to write for the Order, and we never hesitate to apply what we believe to be the proper name to a person or thing.

Dear readers and brothers, I bid you all a kind, fraternal adieu, hoping that we may meet again. Our twenty-first annual report is ended.

Laus Deo.

E. T. CARSON.

May God bless our venerable friend. Sir Burton Smith is R. E.

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\*Authorities for the use of "Knights Templars":

Sketch of the History of the Knights Templars, by James Burns, Edinburgh, 1842.  
 The Knights Templars, by C. G. Addison, London, 1842.  
 History of the Knights of Malta, 2 vols. London, 1853.  
 Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.  
 Macauley's History of England.  
 Worcester's Dictionary.  
 Webster's Dictionary.  
 Walter Scott's writings.  
 Secret Societies of the Middle Ages.  
 Stebbing's History of Chivalry and the Crusades, 2 vols. Edinburgh, 1842.  
 Encyclopedia Britannica.

Grand Commander; Sir J. N. Bell, Grand Recorder; R. E. Sir Enoch T. Carson, Correspondent.

[NOTE.—We submitted our report to Grand Commandery more than a month ago, but requested Bro. Power to send in Ohio as soon as received, so that it could be included in that report. It came to-day, March 12th. D.]

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#### OREGON—1896.

The Tenth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Portland, October 8th. Sir R. E. Lippincott, Grand Commander; Sir James F. Robinson, Grand Recorder. The entire staff was present; 5 Past Grand Commanders, 17 Past Eminent Commanders, 23 Grand Representatives and delegates from 5 of the 6 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is a short, but comprehensive *résumé* of his administration, in which, however, we find nothing of general interest.

The Order is in good shape. Total membership 415—a gain of 11. The proceedings are entirely local.

The principal dish on this literary table is the Correspondence report, which is the work of Past Grand Commander J. M. Hodson, covers 72 pages with good reading matter, and digests the minutes of 37 Templar Grand Bodies, including Mississippi for 1896. We copy his opening chorus:

DEAR FRATERS: We have carefully examined the proceedings of all the Grand Jurisdictions so far as we have been able to secure them. A very few have not come our way, hence, are omitted. We present you with our gleanings, hoping they may both interest and instruct each frater who may do us the honor of perusing our report. It is a work at once laborious and interesting, carrying with it largely its own reward, and we are glad to report that the most perfect harmony exists throughout the Templar world, and prosperity beyond what might have been reasonably expected has attended the Orders the past year.

Under California, and in regard to the dogma of perpetual jurisdiction, he discourses as follows:

We never saw but one argument in favor of perpetual jurisdiction that we regarded as worth serious consideration, and that, we think, was written by Brother Schultze, of Maryland, the point of which was, that a Lodge receiving and conferring the degrees upon a petitioner acted as the agent of, or by the recognized legal authority of, the entire fraternity, and therefore, its act became the acts of the fraternity and its work is entitled to respect, consideration and acceptance as such, and that in the same way, when a Lodge rejected an applicant, it acted by the same authority, and, hence, all Lodges everywhere were bound by its action, and without its consent had no right to change the decision. As a piece of reasoning it caught our attention, and for a time partially convinced us, but then we thought after the brother had received the degrees, say in Maryland, he came to Oregon and had at once proceeded to degenerate until in a few years he became unfit to remain

a Mason, we would have the right to expel him without asking the Lodge that made him. And in the same way should one come into our jurisdiction who had even for just cause been rejected and had at once proceeded to develop good character, and after living in our midst long enough to establish that fact, on the same basis of good reason we ought to have a right to accept him without asking the Lodge which rejected him. Hence, we adhere to the former expressed opinion that while the law of the Grand Lodge is certainly the supreme law of the jurisdiction, yet, in Masonic fairness there should be a limit fixed beyond which a former rejection should not be considered.

Under Minnesota, he pays his respects to non-affiliated Master Masons in the following sensible and vigorous strain :

And we contend that there is not one case in ten thousand where there is "a good Mason who reflects credit upon the Order" who has any justifiable reason for non-affiliation. We have been a Mason for over thirty years, and in that time have been intimately acquainted with a vast number, both "good and not so good," affiliated and non-affiliated, but we frankly confess that we never knew a case in which any credit whatever was reflected upon the Order of Knighthood by the non-affiliated Master Mason. The whole lot has been of a character that would shrink when in hot water and soon ceased to be a yard wide.

All of which we heartily endorse.

Bro. Hodson's review of Mississippi is quite full and exceptionally pleasant. Commenting on Bro. Jenkins' expressed opinion that there are lots of black sheep in the Templar flock, he says :

"While we grant the truth of the above in some instances, yet we cannot comprehend the mental make up of an individual who can make the solemn declarations that each must make for himself, assume the sacred vows of the Templar, witness the impressive ceremonies of the Order and not be benefited, and not depart a better and a wiser man."

And yet, Bro. H., there are some.

Our brother's attention to our report is very flattering and is highly appreciated, particularly his kindly wishes, which we fully reciprocate. Combatting our position that Templary is not religion such as saves people, he says :

If DeLap be true, then of all men Templars must be the most miserable. If belief in, and practice of, the Christian virtues taught by the Order and subscribed to by every Templar goes for naught, then we greatly fear that his other human organizations, known as Churches, have been made in vain, and the number escaping the bed referred to will not be numerous enough to fill a very large heaven. Since as it is, there is plenty of gold in sight to pave all its streets and have an ample reserve fund.

Our Brother misunderstands us. The principles underlying the Order are in accord with the "Plan of Salvation." Our idea is, that a man who makes the Orders of Knighthood or the Blue Lodge his only church is on the wrong road. The basic doctrine of the religion of our Lord may be found in the 3rd chapter of St. John's Gospel, in the interview between our Lord and Nicodemus, and if there is any thing

in the ritual of Masonry or Templary that emphasizes the necessity for a new and spiritual birth, or creation, we have not discovered it. *Membership* in the Order, taken by itself, will save a soul just as quick and effectually as will church membership by itself. In all of which I think Bro. H. will agree.

He thus pleasantly responds to one of our fulminations last year:

Under Ohio, referring to our defense of the "Order of the Eastern Star" and criticisms of the Androgynal pictures published, ridiculing the same:

The tendency of the newly-fledged male bipeds of our day is to decry everything as old-fogyish that does not accord with their ideas of progress as seen in their present age, and to belittle and vilify men old enough to be their grandfathers, and who have forgotten more in an hour than these sluggish critics will ever know, simply because they dare dissent from the advanced (?) views held by them.

We are free to admit that many have forgotten more than they *now* know, themselves, but the principle in mental philosophy that impressions in which we are most deeply interested and enjoy best last longest, is ever true. We never participated in, nor witnessed, any such performances as are pictured. Did you, Brother DeLap? See?

Under Tennessee he says:

We would not give two bits for all the non-affiliated Master Mason Templars in the United States. They were good for nothing in the Lodge, and, per consequence, are worthless anywhere else.

And "them's our sentiments, tew."

We don't suppose that our good Bro. Enoch of Ohio objects to any of the Petticoat and Breeches Side Shows with which he or we are familiar.

An elegant picture of an elegant gentleman and courteous Sir Knight makes the frontispiece of the report we have considered, one of which he is the author. Bro. H. has a fine face, noble in the kindly manliness that characterizes each feature. We shall always be proud to own him as our friend and earnestly pray that he "may live long and prosper."

R. E. Sir Robert S. Bean is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### PENNSYLVANIA—1896.

The Forty-third Annual Conclave was held in Scranton, May 26th. Present: R. E. Edward B. Spencer, Grand Commander; E. Sir Mont. H. Smith, Grand Recorder; a full staff, 9 Past Grand Commanders, 20 Grand Representatives and delegates from 71 Subordinate Commanderies. We also note that every Grand Officer was in his place.

The address is an epitome of a successful administration. Under "Dispensations" we find that he had granted permission to a New York Commandery to INVADE Pennsylvania for the purpose of attending the Grand Commandery! How perfectly ridiculous this sounds and looks in print!

He says he refused *all* applications to ballot upon petitions "out of time." It occurs to us that it would have been more in consonance with the "eternal fitness of things" to have granted *all* of them, because the Subordinate Commandry is the best possible judge of what is best to be done in matters as purely domestic as is this.

His decisions are in accord with law and sense. Touching "Armenia" we copy as follows:

Suffering humanity in any form may confidently appeal to the generous impulses of a Knight Templar's heart, but when suffering is endured in the service of Immanuel and is the result of violence and persecution at the hands of the enemies of the Christian faith, the traditions of our Order demand a firm and united protest against the wrong.

Templar Knighthood originated in the desire to defend the truth and to protect the weak. The scene of its earliest exploits was the land of the Orient, which had given birth to the Saviour, and witnessed His humiliation and His triumph. The Knights of Jerusalem in the 12th and 13th centuries were the organized defense of Christ's followers, and the scourge of His enemies. To-day, not far from the spot where this service was rendered, a simple people, honest and devout in their Christian life, having preserved their ancestral home and the integrity of their faith for centuries, are crushed and almost annihilated under the bloody hand of the destroyer. The Moslem still holds sway as he did in the early days of the Holy City and of devout pilgrims. Political power and a corrupt ecclesiasticism unite to aid this scheme of infamy. We are reminded of the era of persecution which overwhelmed our ancient fraters of the Order of the Temple, when the last Grand Master under the old regime perished at the stake. Let us with our sympathies, our offerings and our prayers remember poor bleeding Armenia.

Let Bro. Cornelius of Montana preach a crusade after the manner of Peter The Hermit, organize an army, wipe out Turkey, and, incidentally, recover the Holy City and Palestine for the Christian world. That Turkey has been allowed to hold those hallowed lands is a disgrace to Christendom. A sad commentary on the unholy greed of England and the timidity of the Continental nations.

We find this in the minutes:

#### AMERICAN FLAG.

The following resolution was read and, on motion, adopted:

**WHEREAS**, It is the sense of this Grand Commandery that the American flag is an appropriate emblem to be borne by Knights Templar of the United States in parade; therefore

**Resolved**, That permission be given to Subordinate Commanderies in any parade which they may lawfully make to carry a silk flag of our country of authentic design and such size as the R. E. Grand Commander may designate, and that any rule or regulation of this jurisdiction to the contrary thereof be and is hereby repealed.

In which we concur. Regarding the "Masonic Home" of Pennsylvania, we find the following:

### MASONIC HOME.

The Representative to the Maine Masonic Home of Pennsylvania, E. Sir M. Richards Muckle, presented the following report, which was, on motion, received :

SCRANTON, May 27, 1896.

*To the Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania :*

SIR KNIGHTS: In accordance with the usual custom, I submit the annual report as your representative to the Masonic Home for the year 1895, it being the eleventh of its existence.

The number of inmates at the close of 1895 was 35, two less than reported at the close of the previous year.

The management take pleasure in reporting the completion of the "Samuel J. Dickey Extension," erected since the last annual report was presented.

The same is now occupied on the first floor as a chapel, and the second and third floors as dormitories.

The steam heating plant for the entire institution is located in the basement of the building.

Besides these improvements, the enlargement of the old dining room has afforded increased facilities for seating a larger number of persons.

In commemoration of our dear and generous deceased brother, Samuel J. Dickey, a memorial tablet containing a bust of him, has been erected in the chapel as an evidence of the affection and gratitude on the part of the management of the Home.

A number of sleeping apartments, each with two beds, have been furnished as memorials at the expense of a number of individual brethren and some of the Masonic Bodies.

Religious services are held each Sunday during the year, except during the months of July and August.

The Donation Day, January 1, 1896, realized \$6,685.85 in money and \$500 in supplies, together \$7,185.85.

The corporation is in the best possible condition, having assets, consisting of real estate and improvements, personal property, premium on policies, etc., amounting to \$66,446.78, and investments to amount of \$33,050, together \$99,496.78.

Of liabilities, I am gratified to say, there are none.

The objects and purposes of homes and asylums must appeal to all who are interested in assuaging the cares, sorrows and discomforts of the poor, helpless, sick and aged, and Masonry can find no better nor greater field than this in devoting a good portion of its annual revenues to so worthy and noble a cause.

This thought leads me to the fact how little attention is given to the subject of brotherhood generally, which will be the more apparent when presented to you in the following detailed figures, which I have deemed proper to thus bring to your notice :

Of the 439 Lodges in our Grand Jurisdiction only 106 are contributors to our Masonic Home. Of the 123 Chapters there are only 15. Of our Commanderies, of which there are 73, only 14. Of 21 Councils only one. Of the eight Bodies of the A. and A. S. Rite there are only three connected with the Home.

The Masonic Veteran Association is not a member, but all the Mark Lodges, three in number, I am pleased to state, hold membership. Thus it will be seen that of the 667 Masonic Bodies in Pennsylvania we can only find 142 which appear to take sufficient interest in the Home as organizations.

This presentment of affairs is not creditable to us as a brotherhood, and should not exist in a fraternity which boasts of its expensive and magnificent palatial temples and great charitable deeds.

A small percentage of the expense lavished by the various Masonic Bodies for entertainments that nightly take place would materially aid in placing the institution in a few years upon a permanent foundation, besides providing means from time to time to extend the capacity of the buildings, thereby affording an opportunity to increase the number of inmates who may be compelled to knock at the doors of the Home, seeking shelter and claiming its hospitality.

In connection with the above views expressed, I might here state an occurrence which led to the idea suggested above.

A friend of mine, not a member of the Masonic fraternity, in perusing a Masonic journal, remarked that it appeared strange to him that Masons could never meet in their respective Masonic Bodies without something to eat and to drink, and judged that considerable sums of money must be annually spent in this manner.

Let this furnish food for reflection and awaken us from the lethargy and selfishness into which state we appear to have fallen and strayed away from one of the noblest principles of Masonry—CHARITY.

Fraternally submitted,

M. RICHARDS MUCKLE.

Proceedings mostly local. Order in excellent condition.

Bro. Lee S. Smith is the author of a good report on Correspondence which cover 62 pages, and digests the doings of nearly all the Templar World.

Bro. Smith's notice of Mississippi, for 1895, is quite full and very pleasant. Thanks. We suggest that he kill his printer or else compel him to put original matter and clippings in *different* type. His plan in the pamphlet before us is extremely disgraceful.

The Grand Encampment goes to Pennsylvania next time and her roll of membership will be largely increased between now and '98.

R. E. Samuel S. Yohe is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA—1896.

Thirtieth Annual at Huron, June 12th. Present: R. E. Frank A. Brown, Grand Commander; E. Sir Geo. A. Pettigrew, Grand Recorder, one Past Grand Commander, 7 Past Eminent Commanders, 17 Grand Representatives and representatives of 10 Subordinate Commanderies; all the staff was present except two.

The address is an elegant paper. Its author's face, which adorns the title page, indicates that there are no flies on him. He opens thusly:

SIR KNIGHTS: In the stupendous economy of the universe, how infinitely small is an earthly year. The round world performs its revolution about its central sun, and lo, another year has joined its phantom brothers gone before. With what increasing velocity do they fly past, as the number of the years of our own life approaches the limit allotted to man. The one that is just behind us seems briefer than the rest, and yet, 'tis June again, and with this beautiful month comes the Annual

Conclave of this Grand Commandery. We to-day enter upon its Thirteenth Session, to review the past, to felicitate ourselves upon the prosperity of the present, and to plan for the welfare of the future.

Which is eloquent as well as true. His dispensations were few and for proper purposes, and his decisions in consonance with sound sense.

We clip the following from the report of the Law Committee:

In regard to that portion of the address relating to action of Watertown Commandery, we find that they were in honor and Knightly duty bound to pay the assessment as levied by this Grand Commandery, and by their disobedience have incurred the displeasure of this Grand Commandery and forfeited their Charter. Yet, by the request of the Watertown Commandery that further time be allowed them, and having the assurance of their Representative now present that they intended no insubordination and would pay the Grand Commandery assessment on or before the first day of November, 1896, your Committee would recommend that that time be granted them before inflicting the penalty of arresting their Charter.

Being its answer to the plea of Watertown made to the Grand Commander that they were financially unable to pay the assessment. When we reflect that this assessment was ordered in order to raise funds for the Triennial blow-out at Bosting, the heartless stupidity of the action taken, will be apparent. If subordinate commanderies are to lose their charters because they do not feel disposed to contribute to such utterly useless, if not pernicious, purposes as this, it occurs to us that it is about time to call a halt. Proceedings local. Total membership 718, a loss of 41!! Too much tax for Triennial blow-outs.

The Correspondence covers 76 pages, digests the doings of most of the Templar governing bodies, in an interesting and courteous strain, and is the work of Bro. Samuel H. Jumper.

As an evidence that our brother is blessed with a supply of Christian charity, which is said to be something of a rarity, we clip this from his review of Maine:

In his review of Wisconsin, 1894, he quotes from the report of Sir Knight William C. Swain who says of Templar burial:

If a Knight dies in good standing, it matters not how he died. It is too late to try him. He has passed before a higher tribunal. We remember an incident in this State, where a Templar in good standing had become dissolute, and was killed at a fire in a house of questionable repute. It was a bitter pill for the Templars to have to bury him; but they wisely decided that, as they had neglected to do their duty before, they must take their medicine, and they did it without flinching.

Brother Berry objects as follows:

We think that if the knowledge of criminality comes after death, the Commander should refuse to grant Templar burial. The honors of Masonry, like its charities, are not to be demanded, but to be requested. If the applicant is unworthy they can be refused. If a knave demands a dimit, after the failure of charges for want of proof, he can have it, but we are not obliged to recommend him. The Commandery referred to might properly have paid for the funeral of the dissolute member, but should not have granted funeral honors, for that was an endorsement and approval of his character.



We are inclined to differ from Bro. Berry and agree with Brother Swain. When a Brother dies we should forget the bad deeds and remember only his good acts. None of us know the inner life of any one. None know the temptations that beset the pathway of a Brother. We sometimes know their weaknesses, but we know not how they come by them, nor how strongly they have fought against them, only to fall at times. Rather that we should bury many undeserving than refuse Nightly burial to one deserving.

We pass! All three are right.

Bro. Jumper's notice of Mississippi for '95 is short but very kind and pleasant. We copy as follows:

The Thirty-fifth Annual Conclave was held in the city of West Point, February 12, 1895. Sir Knight J. C. French, R.: E.: Grand Commander, presided. After the Committee on Credentials had reported, Sir Knight and Rev. T. W. Lewis, Grand Prelate, delivered an address in the Baptist Church in which place the Grand Commandery and many friends had congregated. The text taken was the ascension of Christ and the subject was handled in a most masterly manner. In the afternoon labor was resumed in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, when the Grand Commander delivered his annual address, which was a complete and careful report of the events of the year past.

He has some very pleasant words for this Committee, also, for which we are grateful. Our brother makes a worthy successor of Bro. Stites, as he makes a most excellent report.

Sir James J. Casselman is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### TENNESSEE—1896.

Thirty-fourth Annual at Jackson, May 14th. Present: Sir Orion L. Hurlbut, Grand Commander; Sir Wilber F. Foster, Grand Recorder, the entire staff, save Sword Bearer, 7 Past Grand Commanders, 26 Past Eminent Commanders, 23 Grand Representatives, and delegates from 13 Subordinate Commanderies. The opening was preceded by an address of welcome and response, in which eloquence and hospitality are both presented.

The Grand Commander's address is very short, but is an elegant paper. From his opening chorus we extract the following:

The past Templar year has been a continuation of the period of waiting for better times, begun three years ago; and, while a high standard of qualification for membership has been maintained throughout our jurisdiction, and I have only to refer you to the several reports of our Grand Visitors to prove the moral strength of our Commanderies, in point of numbers we have barely held our own.

This period of waiting has not been without its advantages. There is a strength that is born of waiting that is more stable than that of rapid, pushing progress, and I feel that this strength is ours, and that when the dawn of a new era of prosperity, already brightening the Eastern sky, becomes bright day, that we shall resume our forward movement with tried and tested columns bearing our banner—the Banner of

the Cross—onward and upward toward the summit of our ambition, the final approval of the Great Captain of our Salvation.

He issued two dispensations, and refused one allowing one of his Commanderies to confer the Order of the Temple on Sunday. While we are not in favor of this thing as a common custom, yet we do not believe there is any moral turpitude in the act, provided the Conclave be held at an hour when there is no religious services in the churches.

His decisions are sound. A picture of the R. E. adorns the first page. He is right good looking.

Full reports were made by the staff, acting as Inspectors, which show the Order to be in a fairly prosperous condition. The proceedings are devoid of general interest. Total membership 1,090—a gain of 25.

The Correspondence is the finished production of Grand Recorder Foster, covers 102 pages, digests the minutes of 44 Templar legislatures, in his usual careful, able and courteous style. He is a worthy successor of the lamented Connor, and that is saying a great deal. He opens Alabama thusly:

Alabama—"Here we rest." No we do n't; not by a very large majority. Here we begin to *work*, like the mischief, for the time is short and our poor little mill is only able to grind just so fast and no faster. If we try to push it beyond its capacity, the journals get hot, the crank shaft breaks, the belt slips off, or some other contrariness peculiar to the total depravity of mills brings the old puffer to an inglorious stop or a general smash-up, and we have to blow off steam and lie up for repairs.

We know, for we have tried the experiment.

My! my! What a pile of good reading we have before us, and how learned we will surely be when we have taken it all in!

But this is not telling our Brethren of Tennessee any thing about our sunny-haired sister, Alabama. As we read the record of 1895, we feel like clasping her hand, for tears seem to stand in her bright eyes as she mourns the death of two Grand Officers.

And this under same State:

CORRESPONDENCE—Sir George F. Moore again gives us one of his charming Reports, which must be read from beginning to end to be appreciated. This time his Report is divided under topical headings, and his own comments and the views of other writers are clearly expressed under each title. He insists—and we think, correctly—that *Frater* is the correct plural of *Frater*, but why bother with Latin at all? We are a living people and members of a live Order, and what good reason can there be for draping our fraternal meaning with the shroud of a dead language? Hereafter it is the purpose of this writer to say *Brother*, in good, plain English, and then let the racket come about the correct plural—*Brothers* or *Brethren*.

In all of which, particularly his suggestion that we are a living people and do not need to use dead languages, we concur. The use of *frater* and kindred Latin words, look like an attempt to beg and learn when the facts of the case do not warrant it.

Under Iowa this:

No. 6 was disapproved by the Committee, but after much discussion approved by the Grand Commandery; and yet we venture to differ, and continue to believe that a Commandery Under Dispensation can not grant dimit, because it is not competent to have members, and membership is the necessary condition precedent to receiving dimit. We are aware that the opposite view is sustained by the law of the Grand Encampment, as stated in Title XII, Sections 18 and 19, and Title XXXVIII, Section 1, and that the decision of Grand Commander Clements and the approval thereof by the Grand Commandery were justified thereby; but we do not think that qualifying or explanatory legislation, even by the Grand Encampment, can add to or take from the powers and authority conferred upon certain petitioners by dispensation, as set forth in the face of that instrument. Therein they are authorized to assemble in the capacity of Knights Templar and do certain specific things. Making or receiving members is not one of those items. In fact, a Masonic or Templar organization which can not be represented in a Grand Body, which can not have By-Laws, and whose appointed officers can not be installed, is not competent to have members.

Decision No. 6 is as follows: "A Commandery under dispensation can grant a dimit to one of its members." We are in accord with Bro. Foster and deny the right of any Masonic or Templar Body U. D. to do anything but make Masons or Templars.

Bro. Foster's review of Mississippi is very nice and pleasant. He opens it thusly:

West Point, so called, doubtless, because it is almost on the extreme Eastern border and all the rest of the State lies *west* of it, opened wide her gates and for three days, with characteristic hospitality, gave such as she had to the poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar, from the broad prairies, the piney woods and rich alluvials of the great State of Mississippi. Not that the visitors were either poor or weary, neither were they pilgrims, but, as the lamented Artemus would say, "it is a figure of speech."

The first thing they did after assembling in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association was to count up the attendance; and upon proper investigation it was found that twelve Grand Officers, six Past Grand Commanders, the Representatives of eleven Commanderies, a large number of diplomatists representing other Jurisdictions and a goodly number of visiting Knights were present; whereupon the Grand Commandery of Mississippi was opened in Ample and Knightly Form.

After the appointment of committees the Grand Commandery proceeded to the Baptist Church, where offices of devotion were observed under the direction of Rev. Sir T. W. Lewis, Grand Prelate, who delivered a very eloquent and impressive discourse upon "The Ascension of our Saviour, its Purposes and its Results." It is published in full in the Proceedings.

And this:

In words of sorrow he names the dead of his own and other Jurisdictions, and in accordance with his suggestion, and by order of the Grand Commandery, there is published with the Proceedings a very earnest tribute, written by Sir Frederic Speed, P. G. C., to the memory of our own loved and lost Past Grand Commanders, Sir John Frizzell and Sir George C. Connor.

Mississippi mourns the death of Sir Robert Burwell Brannin, who was conspicuous for usefulness in every branch of Masonry, as well as in his career as a citizen, and withal, greatly beloved for his amiable and unselfish character by all who knew him. His portrait is the frontispiece of the Proceedings.

The Grand Commander reported eleven Dispensations granted, of which two were for attending divine service on Easter, and nine for irregular balloting on petitions. All were approved.

Bro. Foster's attention to our report is full and flattering, and we are obliged. He closes as follows :

Sir Knight DeLap thinks that conferring the Orders of the Temple and Malta on the Sabbath day, outside the hours of regular church service, is not wrong in God's sight. True ; but to the world it has the appearance of Sabbath-breaking, and it behooves Knights Templar to be especially careful to avoid that which will make our " Brother to offend."

Brother DeLap is ready to join Brother Hedges' army and fight the unspeakable Turk in the capacity either of Quartermaster or Commander-in-Chief. Now let the lines move on. Brother Hedges already has the private.

Our Brother's Report upon Tennessee, 1894, wins our heart by the kind words spoken, both there and in review of Georgia, about him who has gone, our dear friend and Brother, George C. Connor. He was this writer's intimate friend for thirty years.

O dear ! Is it possible that we misunderstood you, Brother DeLap, about Masonic Homes ? We are awfully glad to know it, and will almost excuse you for accusing us of " slander." But we must close, thanking our Brother for his kind expressions and approval of our Report of 1894.

We don't know how you could have been misled, but you were, *surely*. We leave Tennessee and Bro. F. with regret but her space is full.

Sir Robert W. Haynes is R. E. Grand Commander ; Sir Wilbur F. Foster, Recorder and Correspondent.

#### TEXAS—1896.

Forty-second Annual, at San Antonio, April 22d. There were present: Sir Jno. McDonald, Grand Commander ; Sir R. Brewster, Grand Recorder, 10 Past Grand Commanders and representatives of 25 Subordinate Commanderies. The Grand Commander's address is quite lengthy and is confined to local matters almost entirely.

Among his " Decisions " we find the following :

October 20th, 1895, I received the following :

BELTON, TEXAS, October 19th, 1895.

*Sir John McDonald, R. E. Grand Commander, Austin, Texas :*

E. SIR:—Your ruling is desired by Belton Commandery, No. 23, upon the following case: About 1890 a Royal Arch Mason, residing within the territorial jurisdiction of Belton Commandery, No. 23, petitioned said Commandery for the Orders of Knighthood, and in due and regular course was elected and a time set to confer the orders upon him, and

when the time arrived, objections were lodged with the Eminent Commander of the Belton Commandery against conferring the Orders upon said candidate, and thus the matter has stood ever since. Meantime, the candidate moved into the territorial jurisdiction of another Commandery of Texas, where he now resides and has resided for three years. He has, at all times, been ready and willing and anxious to take the Orders in our Commandery, and still desires to do so; and the Sir Knights who made the objections are willing to withdraw the same, having become satisfied that their objections were not well founded. Our Commandery (with these objections withdrawn) is anxious to confer the orders upon the candidate if we have the right to do so. The questions involved are these:

- (1) Can the objecting Sir Knights withdraw their objections?
- (2) If so, can our Commandery still confer the Orders upon the candidate without further ballot?
- (3) If our Commandery cannot confer the Orders, can the candidate petition the Commandery within whose jurisdiction he now resides, and in that event, will that Commandery have to apply to Belton Commandery for a waiver of jurisdiction in the matter?

We find no law bearing on the case, except Code of 1884, page 164, to the effect that an objection after ballot, is equivalent to a *rejection by ballot*.

Please advise us on the matter at the earliest possible moment, what our rights and duties in the premises are, and oblige,

Courteously yours,

T. W. COCHRAN,

Recorder of Belton Commandery, No. 23.

*Answered as follows:*

AUSTIN, TEXAS, October 24th, 1895.

*Sir T. W. Cochran, Recorder of Belton Commandery, No., 23, K. T., Belton, Texas:*

DEAR SIR AND FRATER:—Yours of the 19th instant, asking for ruling, duly at hand. The Companion referred to, stands to your Commandery as having been rejected. He should petition the Commandery in whose jurisdiction he resides, stating he had been rejected by Belton Commandery. The Commandery, before acting on his petition, should then ask your Commandery to waive jurisdiction, and upon your Commandery's doing so, the Companion can be elected to receive the Orders, by the Commandery in whose jurisdiction he resides.

In which decision we do not concur. The moment the objections to his advancement were withdrawn he was left an elected candidate, and should have been given the Orders by Belton Commandery. The Law Committee sustained the ruling of the Grand Commander, however, which amounts to nothing.

He issued a big batch of dispensations, but they were all for practical purposes.

The proceedings are local in their references. It cost Texas \$500 for headquarters at Bosting, which was not very heavy in comparison with many others. The Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of \$2,155.83. Total membership 2,129—a gain of 49.

Forty Templar legislatures are considered in a report covering 63 pages, in a courteous and interesting style by Bro. Robert M. Elgin, Mississippi for '95 among the number. We clip what follows:

After the Grand Commandery had been opened and the Committee on Credentials had reported, the Grand Commandery proceeded to the Baptist Church where devotional exercises were observed and a discourse delivered by the Rev. Sir T. W. Lewis, Grand Prelate, on the Ascension of our Saviour. We have read it with pleasure, we hope, not without profit. It is excellent, not only in spirit but in substance, and possesses two other merits not always found in addresses on such occasions—it was brief and confined to the subject.

The Grand Commandery pays an affectionate tribute to the distinguished dead of other jurisdictions, and Sir French W. Speed, contributed a paper on the lives and characters of those distinguished Templars, the late Sir John Frizzell, and Sir George C. Connor, of Tennessee, Sir Robert Macoy, of New York, and Sir Joseph K. Wheeler, of Connecticut.

The Grand Commander reports having granted a dispensation for a new Commandery at Brooklyn and at the same time issued a dispensation authorizing it when it set to work, to ballot on the petitions of five Companions and confer the Orders on the day of the organization.

No doubt the "intelligent compositor" is responsible for the substitution of French for Frederick in our Speed's name. Kill him, at once! Our brother has some pleasant words for this scribe, which are appreciated.

Sir J. F. Brukerhoff is Grand Commander; Sir Robert Brewster, Grand Recorder, and Sir R. M. Elgin, Correspondent.

#### VERMONT—1896.

Fifty-fourth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Burlington, June 9th. Present: Sir Silas W. Cummings, R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Walter G. Reynolds, Grand Recorder, all the staff but three, 8 Past Grand Commanders, 3 Past Deputy Grand Commanders, 32 Grand Representatives and delegates from 10 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is quite long, and is mostly local in its references. The Grand Commandery mourns the loss of three of its members, interesting sketches of each appearing in the address. His visitations were quite general and he evidently had a good time at each Commandery. Regarding this matter of inspection, he says:

The result of my observations from visiting and inspecting each Commandery in this jurisdiction, briefly stated, are as follows:

The highest degree of efficiency is found in those Commanderies where the strictest discipline is maintained and military bearing is enforced.

The memorizing of the Ritual being first thoroughly accomplished, which I have found in most Commanderies, I would strongly recommend and urge upon each Eminent Commander, the great importance of more frequent drills; and don't be afraid of being called a martinet, because you exact strict discipline, while the Commandery is at work in its Asylum as well as when on duty in public.

To the members of the Subordinate Commanderies, I would appeal for a larger attendance on your stated Conclaves.

It is a duty you owe to yourselves and your officers, even if it requires the overcoming of inertia, or, at times, a sacrifice of personal comfort.

His dispensations were all for proper objects. He stultified himself and debased the Order by issuing a general order allowing his Subordinate Commanderies to accept invitations of Grand Army Posts to join with them in the proper observance of Memorial Day! It is astonishing what a gaudy uniform, a cocked hat and a "trusty claymore" can do in the way of exciting patriotism and quickening our memory of the obligations we owe to the soldier dead! He made no decisions.

The proceedings contain nothing of general interest. Order in good, healthy condition. Total membership 1,458—a gain of 62.

We note that the Law Committee "approved the official acts of the Grand Commander, and found them to have been in strict accordance with the Statutes of the Order." Of course this includes the Memorial Day parade order, which is in violation of a well known rule of the Grand Encampment prohibiting Templars parading in uniform on other than Masonic or Templar occasions. Memorial Day is neither a Masonic or Templar Day, hence the general order was in violation of the law of the Supreme Body.

Our old friend, Bro. Kittredge Haskins commences one of his excellent reports on Correspondence as follows;

Your Committee on Correspondence beg leave to submit herewith their third annual report. A list of the proceedings received, and herein reviewed, will be found at the close of this report. Our Order is not local, but is wide-spread as the universe, and every loyal Templar has an interest to know of its prosperity and standing in sister jurisdictions. The proceedings of other Grand Bodies cannot be reproduced as a whole, but it is the aim of the "Templar Guild," after a careful reading of the several proceedings, to embody in their Correspondence the more interesting and important matters that have occurred in other Grand Jurisdictions during the year of which they write. The past year has been one of unusual peace and prosperity throughout the Templar world, for all which we have cause to be exceedingly thankful. With courteous greetings to each and all, we begin the task with Alabama.

Bro. Haskins gets up an admirable report, has the courage of his convictions, and lets us all know the fact. His review of Mississippi for 1895, is pleasant and fraternal. He says of Bro. French's address, that it is "an interesting one and to the point." Anent our beloved Doctor's remarks in reference to your humble servant, he has this to say:

Very good in the Grand Commander to bestow such well deserved compliments where they belong. But with us Bro. DeLap needed no avouchment as to his excellent qualities of head and heart. We have read, with great pleasure and satisfaction, his reports for years, and measuring from what he has written, never having met him, we have formed for him a most "affectionate regard."

Which is very pleasant reading for us and to our copying which we trust our Bro. Ruckle of Indiana, will not object. We hope to meet and greet Bro. Kittredge on the banks of the "River of Life" in that "Upper and better country."

Under Iowa we find the following :

The Report on Correspondence was submitted by E. Sir J. C. W. Coxe and contains seventy-six printed pages. He reviews the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Bodies, and in doing it he gets at the kernel of each, presenting to the reader the best thought of those from whom he quotes, and does not hesitate to express his own opinion on the subject of which he writes. He devotes two and one-half pages to Vermont, wherein he takes us to task for some things we wrote with which he cannot fully agree, but he is so extremely courteous in his attempted ridicule of our position as to what is and is not a "Masonic" occasion or "Templar" occasion, that we can find no fault with what he writes. We have been a Mason thirty-nine years—and both studious and active all the while—and must confess that while we love it as we do love our life, yet we have never been able to discover any very near relationship between Ancient Craft Masonry and the order of Templarism. We recognize the fact that by reason of certain laws, rules and regulations, to be a member of the latter we must have been of the former. But other than that the two orders are wholly unlike. The effect of that grand parade of uniformed Templars at the Triennial in Boston, has been to give a most powerful impetus to Masonry in New England, especially so in Massachusetts. Would the effect have been the same, think you, my dear Frater, if they had paraded in the citizens' plain dress? If then, that parade of uniformed Sir Knights has been the means of one additional person knocking at the door of our Lodge room or Asylum; and if Masonry makes its votaries wiser and better men, why do you undertake to ridicule the idea of the "uplifting" and the "upbuilding" of the human race by reason of it. Some people are altogether too short-sighted, and cannot look far enough ahead to discover the cause and effect of that which seems to lie beyond the reach of their mental vision. They are not to blame for it; but they ought not to poke fun at others who can see what they do not.

Which we copy to show that our estimate of the man is correct. Besides that there are some new ideas contained in the extract that will doubtless interest you. No doubt Bro. H. will go for our scalp on account of what we have said, above, about Grand Commander Cummings and Memorial Day, but we can't help it. We feel sure, however, that there will be no venom in his response.

We would like to devote more space to the Vermont Committee, but her time is up.

Sir Robt. J. Wright is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### VIRGINIA—1896.

The seventy-fourth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Richmond, November 20th. Present: R. E. Jno. T. Parham, Grand Commander; R. E. Jas. B. Blanks, Grand Recorder; 3 Past Grand Commanders, a long list of Grand Representatives, Past Eminent Commanders and visiting Knights, together with the representatives of 18 out of the 20 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a business paper, well written but devoted almost exclusively to matters local. He reports the Order in prosperous condi-



tion. His dispensations were all for proper objects. His decisions, are in accord with the law, as it stands there, but we have always understood that a Templar could affiliate with any Commandery he chose, without regard to residence.

Proceedings local. Total membership 1,481—a gain of 24. No report on Correspondence, for what reason we know not.

R.: E.: E. H. Miller is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder continued.

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#### WISCONSIN—1896.

The thirty-eighth Annual was held in the city of Milwaukee, October 13th. Present: R.: E.: Geo. H. Hopper, Grand Commander; Sir Jno. W. Laffin, Grand Recorder, the entire staff, 7 Past Grand Commanders, 9 other Past Grand Officers, 12 Past Eminent Commanders, 21 Grand Representatives, including Bro. Griffin for Mississippi, and delegates from 27 Subordinate Commanderies. The address is comparatively short, is well written and devoted to local matters entirely. He refused to allow one of his Commanderies to act as escort to the Grand Lodge of Masons at the laying of a corner stone, saying that the Statutes of the Grand Commandery prohibit it. We suggest its repeal as being extremely stupid. His decisions are in accord with law.

The proceedings were local. Order in excellent shape in all respects. Total membership 2902, a gain of 54.

Correspondence is, as usual, the work of Bro. Wm. C. Swain; is his fourteenth effort along this line and is good.

He opens as follows:

We present our Fourteenth Report with an apology. We have been admonished to be brief, and have endeavored to comply, with a result which has not at all satisfied us. We think there were at one time in Paris, persons who called themselves quatorzieme, who gained their daily bread by accepting invitations to dinners given by superstitious persons, to make the fourteenth guest. We hope our Fourteenth Report will not suggest that occupation.

Our Brother is great on *Temperance* but down on prohibition, and we are glad he is disposed to be temperate, even, in the use of intoxicants, but we would like it still better if he was a teetotaler. We agree with him in his idea that whiskey and wine are both good in their places, and there are rare cases when their place is in the human stomach, but this is seldom the case and it is never in order to indulge in either one, as a beverage.

Under Michigan we find this:

We do not agree that the "fast coming conflict in Masonry will be based on the whisky question." At the present time there seems to be a tendency to grind us temperance people between the upper and nether millstones of prohibition on one side and intemperance on the other, but in the end we will hold the balance, and relegate such questions

where they belong—in subordinate bodies. Such a case as that cited in a Michigan city is too exceptional to require special legislation.

Mississippi, for 1896, gets two pages and a half in this short but breezy report. He says of Bro. Jenkins' address, that in it—

"He made two recommendations, which were referred to a special committee. In our opinion these should have been left under the head of "Moral Reflections," such as are found in the exordium of every Grand Commander's address, and are generally good in their way. One was, that all Knights Templar should be united with the Church of their choice, and the other, that one whose name appears upon the petition of an applicant for license to sell intoxicants should be excluded from our Asylums. This is carrying the prohibition fad a good ways. The report upon both these propositions was favorable, but that the latter might be an infringement of individual liberty.

Speed, on Templar law, reported approving the decisions of the Grand Commander, so we presume they were all right; but as we could'n't get the decisions, we will not express an opinion.

And this of us :

DeLap seems to labor under the not uncommon delusion, that all suspension for non-payment of dues debars from Masonic intercourse, simply because it shuts the brother out of the Lodge, and that it is suspension from all Masonic rights in jurisdictions which do not make that express provision.

DeLap is laboring under no "delusion" at all. Suspension for non-payment of dues is as much suspension as though the crime had been rape, and suspension suspends or it is a farce, and Bro. Swain has no right to converse masonically with a suspended mason, nor does his obligation allow any latitude of judgment along here, or the making of nice distinctions. Further along we find these :

This report seems something of a mixture. First, we come across something real good and pleasant, and then we find something dyspeptic, like this:

We beg to dissent from the first proposition. The world is not growing better.

There were two tramps in front of a prosperous looking farm house, and just over the fence was a big dog. "No use trying to go in there, John!" "Nonsense! the dog won't hurt you. See, he is wagging his tail." "Yes, but he's showing his teeth, too, and I don't know which end to bet on." We feel in the same way. We don't know which end of DeLap to bet on.

Don't bet on either end of DeLap! Bet on McKinley—he seems to have the call.

He says the Grand Commandery of Wisconsin spent no money for intoxicants at Bosting—not a cent—and we are glad to know it.

The report, as a whole, though brief, is an excellent one, and we hope he will not be hampered again by a call for brevity.

Sir Edward C. Deane is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

## WYOMING—1896.

Ninth Annual Conclave was held at Rawlins, May 20th. Present: R.: E.: Sir Frank M. Foote, Grand Commander; E.: Sir John C. Baird, Grand Recorder, and Representatives from the five Subordinate Commanderies. There were also ten Grand Representatives, including ours, Bro. Davis—in attendance.

The address is a short history of an uneventful administration.

The minutes are devoid of anything of general interest. Total membership 262—a gain of 14. Finances in good shape.

No report on Correspondence. The pamphlet is adorned with a picture of the Grand Commander, Bro. Foote. This is another instance where art is preferred to literature.

R.: E.: Sir Adam S. Parshall, Grand Commander; E.: Sir John C. Baird continued as Grand Recorder and Chairman Fraternal Correspondence Committee. Hope they will make and publish a report.

## WASHINGTON—1896.

The ninth Annual was held at Seattle, June 3d. Present: R.: E.: Horace W. Tyler, Grand Commander; Sir Yancey C. Blalock, Grand Recorder; the entire staff, except the Grand Prelate, 8 Past Grand Commanders, 21 Grand Representatives, and delegates from 9 (all) the Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a business document almost entirely local in its references. His decisions were correct and his dispensations for proper purposes.

Regarding "Old Glory," he has this to say:

It is with genuine thrills of pleasure that we notice that Americans are evincing their patriotism and loyalty by the more general use of our national flag. Our schools are doing a great work by instilling into the minds of our children reverence and due respect for "Old Glory." And from many of our city, county and state buildings are now more generally to be seen our national colors daily floating. Let the good work go on; it is a glorious tribute to true Americanism. Last fall Cataract Commandery of Spokane, of which I am very proud of being a member, procured a regulation national flag and proudly unfurls its colors on all occasions side by side with its banner. And to-day who could but be thrilled with admiration to see at the head of our column the flag that is dear to every American heart. I trust and would recommend that every Commandery in this jurisdiction procure, as soon as possible, the American flag as a part of its equipment.

The address, as a whole, is an excellent one.

The proceedings are devoid of general interest. Order in good shape. Total membership 592—a gain of 7.

One hundred and twenty-two pages of the pamphlet are occupied by the Correspondence report of Grand Recorder Blalock in which he pays his respects to nearly all the Templar family in his usual terse and courteous style. In all these pages we do not find enough original

matter to fill one page, hence there is no chance for scissors and paste here.

Mississippi, we regret to say, had not reached him in time to secure a place.

Geo. E. Dickson is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

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#### WEST VIRGINIA—1896.

The Twenty-second Annual Conclave was held in the city of Charleston, May 13. Present: R. E. Sir W. H. H. Holswade, Grand Commander, R. C. Dunnington, Grand Recorder, all the staff save two, 7 Past Grand Commanders, and Representatives of 10 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is an elegant *resume* of his administration. His opening makes a near approach to eloquence, and he gets enthused over the blow-out at Bosting and the glory and greatness of the Order of the Temple. There can be no doubt as to the phenomenal character of the growth of the Order, in this country, and it is a matter of congratulation that among the 110,000 of to-day there are so few as godless and bloodthirsty as the Templars who fought in Palestine and raised the devil in many places. Your committee is well aware that such an estimate of the character of the Ancient Templars is not the popular one, but as our reading warrants it, we shall not change.

It is more than probable that if the number of *real true* Christians in the known world had been ascertained at the time the Knights Templar, Knights of Malta and St. John flourished it would not have exceeded the number in Israel at the time Elijah thought he stood alone!

Appropriate mention is made of the fraternal dead. Peace to their ashes. His dispensations were for proper purposes and his decisions in accord with equity and sound sense. We clip this from his closing:

"In eternal enmity to every form of vice and crime, with intolerance toward hypocrisy and fraud, within or without our mystic circle, with heart, voice and hand for every right that needs assistance, 'gainst every wrong that needs resistance," with justice impartial, with courage undaunted and abounding in magnanimity, may we walk the paths of our pilgrimage in honor and integrity, in peace and good will, ever appreciating and never traducing the sum total of all virtues—character.

Thus purposing, thus achieving, in "earnest toil and strong endeavor," our banner will indeed be the emblem of liberty and truth and the name of our valiant Order the synonym of true chivalry.

The proceedings were local. Order in good trim financially and otherwise. Total membership 878—a gain of 97.

The Correspondence report covers 125 pages, reviews the proceedings of forty-three Templar legislatures, and is the work of Bro. Albert

B. White, it being, as he remarks, in closing, his first and last report. Why they should switch about so and change Reporters each year in West Virginia, we do not understand. It can't be on account of incompetency, for we have never seen a poor report in their pamphlet. However, it is none of our business. Bro. White's report is exhaustive and ought to have secured his continuance on the Committee.

Bro. White's review of Mississippi, for '95 is very full and fraternal. We are more than obliged for his attention to our pamphlet and for kindly words spoken of us. We clip his

#### CONCLUSION.

The proceedings of the various Grand Bodies reviewed contain much in regard to the great Triennial Conclave at Boston, either of preparation or of comment, which we have passed over with little or no mention. That this great event in Knight Templarism attracted the attendance from every Grand Jurisdiction, which such unbounded hospitality as was shown at Boston merited, is all that is necessary for us to state.

The year of 1895 was one of peace and progress in our beloved Order, despite the hard times,—the stimulating effect of the Triennial more than offsetting the unfavorable monetary conditions.

We have given in our review of Louisiana and one or two other States a resume of the action of the Grand Encampment for the information of our West Virginia fraters.

We entered upon this work with great misgivings, which did not lessen as we proceeded. It was clearly evident to our mind that the reviewer of the proceedings of the various Grand Bodies should possess certain necessary qualifications. He should be almost of necessity an officer or ex-officer of a Grand Commandery and have sat in the Grand Encampment as a member. Not having been privileged in either respect, and the busy cares of a daily newspaper and many other interests having crowded upon our time, your correspondent felt that in justice to himself he should not have accepted the responsible task. But having done so this once with what small ability he may possess, he feels his disabilities too strongly to continue the work and steps aside for a better qualified and worthier successor. From such a past master of the art of reviewing as Sir O. S. Long to your present correspondent is too great a contrast.

We are under obligations to Frater Long for his review of eight reports. It is hardly necessary to say which ones, for they speak for themselves, but that he may not be charged with our sins of omission and commission we name them: Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Our review has of necessity been a chronicle rather than disputative. We have quoted freely for the information of our West Virginia fraters. For the length of the report we apologize. But condensation is the acquirement of experience and we have written for the less informed rather than for the well informed.

With a Knightly greeting to all, we close this our first and last report.

Courteously submitted,

ALBERT B. WHITE,

For the Committee.

We hope the Lord will be very good to Bro. White—he suits us.

Sir Jno C. Rihelduffer is R. E. Grand Commander; E. Sir Robt. C. Dunnington, Grand Recorder, and E. Sir W. W. Van Winkle is the Correspondent.

## CONCLUSION.

And now having again reached the bottom of the pile of pamphlets, we submit our work for your inspection, and, we trust, for your interest and improvement.

There are no exciting topics on the tapis, just now, hence the absence of the usual measure of spice that characterizes these reports. We regret this the more, because there is nothing we enjoy so much as a first-class scrimmage.

At this writing, and it is late for the closing of our report, the Alabama and Ohio pamphlets are both conspicuously absent, much to our regret. Should they put in an appearance at the last moment, they shall have that meed of attention and consideration that their exalted merits demand. We most always sometimes find something in our beloved and venerable friend Enoch's deliverances that wake things up and cast a sort of lurid glow around the horizon, and this fact makes his absence from our board a matter of more than ordinary regret.

Peace, gentle peace, pervades the Templar family, and prosperity seems to keep pace with the march of time and the lapse of years.

Thus may it ever continue, and may the day soon dawn when every Templar shall feel a personal pride in the maintainance of such a plane of morality and righteousness by the membership as will best become an institution the basis of which is the Christian Religion and the practice of the Christian virtues.

Earnestly praying that Heaven's choicest blessings may rest upon each one of you and upon the Order everywhere, I beg to remain,

Courteously yours,

E. G. DeLAP.





GILES MUMFORD HILLYER,  
GRAND COMMANDER KNIGHTS TEMPLAR 1859.



## GILES MUMFORD HILLYER.

1806-1871.

### *[From report of Grand Council Proceedings.]*

Giles Mumford Hillyer, who was the first Deputy Grand Master of the ninth Grand Master of this Grand Council, was born in Hartford, Conn., August 15, 1806, and died in Vicksburg, April 22, 1871; he was a noble descendant of the oldest families of New England both by the father's and mother's side.

His father removed to New York City in 1821, where he was prepared for College and entered Columbia College in 1822, where he was prepared for College and entered Columbia College in 1822, where he was prepared for College and entered Columbia College in 1822.

At the age of fourteen, he became at once prominent as a student, winning not merely the first honors of his class and the gold medal.

during the entire four years, but ranking as a scholar in every particular branch. He commenced the study of law immediately after his graduation in 1830, entering the office of Judge Lord, Jr., being admitted to the bar in 1831, at the age of twenty-five years of age.

In 1839, he was Secretary of the New York State Whig Committee and soon became renowned for the energy and fervor which he threw into his political labors.

He married Elizabeth Rolston, of Meriden, Conn., his wife having all of them marked by strong intellectual attributes and a strong religious faith.

Removing to Meriden in 1841, he soon became a lawyer, writer and public speaker. In 1849 he moved to Natchez, Miss., where he became the editor of the Natchez Courier, which under his management soon became one of the most prominent organs of that State.

He was a member of the Natchez Convention of 1848, and was one of the few which were conducted with equal ability and none was so unimpaired grace and polish. In 1850 he was elected to Congress against Gen. John A. Quitman, his warm personal friend, and although defeated in a district where the Union was in a position majority, succeeded in electing Gen. Thompson to the race.

A strong Union man, his pamphlet "The Union and the State" had great effect in the State and was reprinted in a series of articles published in the Courier in 1850, and the events which followed the reconstruction were fully explained as to make clear the position of the State in the light of the State seceded and the Union was maintained.

He was not a momentary enthusiast, but nothing, but the sword could decide the issue, and it having to his arms and fires, he at once enlisted as a private.

G. H. EVER,  
J. S. TEMPLE, 1890

## GILES MUMFORD HILLYER.

BY FREDERIC SPEED.

[ *From reprint of Grand Council Proceedings.* ]

Giles Mumford Hillyer, who was the first Deputy Grand Master and ninth Grand Master of this Grand Council, was born in Hartford, Conn., August 31st, 1818, and died in Vicksburg, April 22d, 1871; he was a lineal descendant of the oldest families of New England, both by the father's and mother's side. His father removed to New York City in 1821, where he was prepared for College and entered Columbia in 1832 at the age of fourteen; he became at once prominent as a scholar, taking not merely the first honors of his class and the gold medals then awarded, during the entire four years, but ranking as either first or second scholar in every particular branch. He commenced the study of law immediately after his graduation in 1836, entering the office of the late Daniel Lord, Jr.; being admitted to the bar in 1839, when barely twenty-one years of age. In 1840, he was Secretary of the Young Men's Democratic-Whig Committee and soon became renowned for the force, eloquence and fervor which he threw into his political labors. January 5th, 1843, he married Elizabeth Rolston, of Mobile, Ala.; his wife and four children, all of them marked by strong intellectual features of character, surviving him. Removing to Aberdeen in 1845, he soon became prominent as a lawyer, writer and public speaker. In 1850 he moved to Natchez and became the editor of the Natchez Courier, which under his skilled hand, soon became one of the most prominent journals of that day; there were few which were conducted with equal ability and none with more consummate grace and polish. In 1855 he was a candidate for Congress against Gen. John A. Quitman, his warm personal and Masonic friend, and although defeated in a district where there was four thousand opposition majority, succeeded in running Gen. Quitman almost to the saddle in the race. A strong Union man, his pamphlets and editorials produced great effect in the State and were quoted throughout the Nation, one series of articles published in the fall of 1860, are even now perused, and the events which followed their appearance were so fully foreshadowed by him as to make them read almost in the light of prophecy. When the State seceded and the call to arms was sounded, he then saw that it was not a momentary passion but that nothing but the arbitration of the sword could decide the issue, and it having become an attack upon his altars and fires, he at once enlisted as a private soldier and served

throughout the war with distinction, first in the army in Virginia in 1861, and afterwards in that of the West and of Tennessee, until the surrender, attaining the rank of Major, in which capacity he served on the staff of Gen. Bragg. After a four years absence he returned to Natchez. in the fall of 1865, having in his absence been unanimously elected to represent the city in the Legislature, where he rendered conspicuous services and by which he was selected as one of the Commissioners of the State to intercede with President Johnson for the release of Mr. Davis, then a prisoner at Fortress Monroe, a duty which he discharged with much tact, and although not successful, succeeded in rendering the imprisoned head of the Confederacy's condition much more tolerable. His reports and speeches in the Legislature were specimens of rich thought and elegant diction. In 1868 a disastrous fire in Natchez swept away in a few moments all that the war had left to him and the earnings of the subsequent years, including the entire Courier establishment and he was left almost penniless. The following year he moved to Vicksburg and for a time edited the Daily Times, after which he resumed the practice of the law and occupied himself with the enjoyment of those literary tastes, which threw around the evening of his days a purer light than the turmoil of party conflict.

Brother Hillyer was made a Mason in Harmony Lodge at Natchez in 1850. Throwing himself actively into the study of the Royal Art, he became Master of his Lodge in the following year; was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Natchez Royal Arch Chapter in 1851 and elected Principal Sojourner the same year and High Priest in 1858, '59 and '60. Greeted a Royal and Select Master in Natchez Council in 1852, he served it almost continuously for many years in some official capacity, having been its Master several of them. Dubbed a Knight Templar in Magnolia Commandery, stationed at Vicksburg, in 1855, he dimitted in 1858 to join in the organization of Rosalie Commandery at Natchez, of which he was the first Commander and continued as such until his removal from that city.

In 1855 he was elected Grand Master of Masons and re-elected in 1856, having served with great acceptability. In 1860-61 he was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter. In 1868-69 he was Grand Master of this Grand Council, and in 1859-60, Grand Commander of Knights Templar. In 1859 he was elected General Grand Scribe of the General Grand Chapter of the United States and attended the National Masonic Convention of that year as one of the delegates from the Grand Lodge of Mississippi. In 1852 he was made a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, 32°, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and in 1859 elected to the dignity of Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, and an Active Member of the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, filling the place made vacant by the death of Illustrious Brother John A. Quitman, and at the time of his death was its Grand Minister of State.

As a Masonic writer and jurist, Brother Hillyer's reputation was wide-spread. A man of study and research, a nervous speaker, an eloquent writer, his name and fame yet remains a household word among the Masons of this State and country. A practised Craftsman his work was a specimen of beauty, well fitted and such as was needed for the building of the Temple, and the ornate thoughts and beautiful language of the Rituals of every degree, fell from his lips with a grace and dignity rarely equalled and never excelled. His reports to our Grand Bodies are models of strong rhetoric and elegant diction and display such an intimate acquaintance with the history, jurisprudence and usages of Masonry as to place him beyond comparison as the greatest Mason which this State has produced.

Of magnificent physique, and a commanding appearance, he never failed by his magnetic power to sway the passions, kindle the affections and win the plaudits of all the people whom he addressed, whether in Masonic circles, the Councils of his Church or upon the hustings. Lofty ideas were uttered by him with a grace and ease that carried away the heart. In his public speeches the compliment was paid him by the reporters that they had to stop to admire, and that their hand failed in recording his nervous and graceful rhetoric. His contest with Governor Foote, one of the most brilliant men of his day, at Columbus, in 1848, was long remembered, and the triumph he gained on the hustings on that memorable occasion, was cheerfully acknowledged by that distinguished debater and all the people who were present. It is said that whenever and wherever he rose to speak the silence of expectation greeted him and the ears of his hearers were filled with eloquent sentences, simply but beautifully uttered, and so draped as to produce a lasting impression on his audience.

Not the least amongst his many gifts was his ability as a presiding officer, and as such he had but few superiors; thoroughly familiar with parliamentary law, quick in decision, steady in command, he appeared as if by intuition to arrive at a conclusion which was found to be just, true and right, on tracing it back to its fountain head.

At the Lodge of Sorrow held by the Supreme Council, after his death, Albert Pike, who had known him long and well, said of Bro. Hillyer: "of one I have promised specially to speak, promised my own heart, which demanded it of me. At our last meeting, our Illustrious Brother Hillyer, as Grand Minister of State, pronounced the opening eulogy upon the dead for whom we then held Lodge of Sorrow. No one of us will ever forget the first sentence that he uttered, as he stood there feeble and emaciated, the tones of his fine voice, and the exquisite beauty of his modulations and cadences, more sadly sympathetic than ever. 'It is past the noon of Spring,' he said; 'the clock of time long since recorded the year's low twelve, and the months in stately progress are approaching its high meridian.' Alas, the leafless autumn of his life had

come; the hand of death had already touched his generous heart, and he had then begun to die."

"He was of generous and liberal temper and little worldly wise. One could not conceive of him as accumulating a fortune. Of a singularly mild and generous nature; a man whom those who knew him could not help but love--his sympathies were easily aroused, his friendship lasting, and his enmities short-lived. Never unfair in discussion, nor resorting to those tricks of counterfeit logic that have been calledascalities of dialectics, he could never have argued well a proposition that he knew to be erroneous, or managed a case ably that he knew to be unjust. He was frank and fearless, and a lover of the truth; and cunning was as far from him as the antipodes."

"Fortune dealt very hardly with him during the last years of his life, but he bore her cruel buffetings with a wonderful equanimity and patience, as he did the long and painful days and nights of his last sickness. Faithful and loyal to the end, he toiled whenever he could rise from his bed, and when the harshest creditor could not have had the heart to ask him to do so, to complete copies of manuscript for which the Supreme Council had paid him in advance; but death claimed him before the work was ended, and the last copy was left to be finished by another hand.

"'The unfinished work of the dead.' The work done in pain by the patient, wasted, toiling sufferer, drooping, exhausted and fainting, over his table; the work done, not that he might receive more money for it, but that it might repay that which he had received; the last and holiest offering upon the altar of Masonry and duty--surely such a work, however incomplete, ought to have a value beyond any price, and should be treasured as a holy relic. For every page of it is consecrated by his suffering, his weariness and his devotion, and they are the record of many long, sad, hopeless hours.

"'However incomplete.' Nay, rather, because incomplete; for there could not be the same pathetic interest in a work that he had lived to finish. He wrestled with death to finish this, and could not overcome. At last he could not rise from his bed, even for a few minutes; his nerveless fingers failed him; his eyes could no longer see the lines; but to the last word there is the same neatness, the seemly handwriting, the same taste and love of the beautiful displayed by the varied and gay colors of the inks.

"Of cultivated taste and vivid imagination, a scholar well-read, our Brother Hillyer spoke and wrote with equal eloquence and beauty; and it is true and even higher praise that the sentiments expressed by him were always lofty, refined, delicate and pure."

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## ADDRESS OF GRAND RECORDERS.

|                                   |                           |                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Alabama.....                      | H. CLAY ARMSTRONG.....    | Montgomery.     |
| Arizona.....                      | GEORGE J. RUSKRUGE.....   | Tucson.         |
| Arkansas.....                     | JAMES A. HENRY.....       | Little Rock.    |
| California.....                   | THOMAS H. CASWELL.....    | San Francisco.  |
| Canada Sov Great Priory.....      | DANIEL SPRY.....          | Barrie, Ont.    |
| Colorado.....                     | ED. C. PARMELEE.....      | Denver.         |
| Connecticut.....                  | ELI C. BIRDSEY.....       | Meriden.        |
| District of Columbia.....         | I. LARUE JOHNSON.....     | Washington.     |
| England and Wales.....            | JOHN C. HAY.....          | London, W. C.   |
| Florida.....                      | WM. A. MCLEAN.....        | Jacksonville.   |
| Georgia.....                      | SAMUEL P. HAMILTON.....   | Savannah.       |
| Illinois.....                     | GILBERT W. BARNARD.....   | Chicago.        |
| Indiana.....                      | WM. H. SMYTHE.....        | Indianapolis.   |
| Indian Territory.....             | LEO. E. BENNETT.....      | Muskogee.       |
| Iowa.....                         | ALF. WINGATE.....         | Des Moines.     |
| Ireland.....                      | JOHN A. BAKER.....        | Dublin.         |
| Kansas.....                       | A. M. CALAHAM.....        | Topeka.         |
| Kentucky.....                     | ALONZO D. CRONINGER.....  | Covington.      |
| Louisiana.....                    | RICHARD LAMBERT.....      | New Orleans.    |
| Maine.....                        | STEPHEN BERRY.....        | Portland.       |
| Maryland.....                     | JOHN H. MILLER.....       | Baltimore.      |
| Massachusetts & Rhode Island..... | BENJ. W. ROWELL.....      | Lynn.           |
| Michigan.....                     | JOHN A. GEROW.....        | Detroit.        |
| Minnesota.....                    | THOS. MONTGOMERY.....     | St. Paul.       |
| Mississippi.....                  | J. L. POWER.....          | Jackson.        |
| Missouri.....                     | WM. H. MAYO.....          | St. Louis.      |
| Montana.....                      | EDWARD D. NEIL.....       | Helena.         |
| Nebraska.....                     | WM. R. BOWEN.....         | Omaha.          |
| New Hampshire.....                | GEORGE P. CLEAVES.....    | Concord.        |
| New Jersey.....                   | CHARLES BECHTEL.....      | Trenton.        |
| New York.....                     | JOHN F. SHAFER.....       | Albany.         |
| North Carolina.....               | HORACE H. MUNSON.....     | Wilmington.     |
| North Dakota.....                 | FRANK J. THOMPSON.....    | Fargo.          |
| Ohio.....                         | JOHN N. BELL.....         | Dayton.         |
| Oregon.....                       | JAS. F. ROBINSON.....     | Salem.          |
| Pennsylvania.....                 | MONT H. SMITH.....        | Philadelphia.   |
| Prince Edward Island.....         | B. WILSON HIGGS.....      | Charlottetown.  |
| Scotland.....                     | LINDSEY MACKERSEY.....    | Edinburg.       |
| South Dakota.....                 | GEORGE A. PETTIGREW.....  | Flandreau.      |
| Tennessee.....                    | WILBER F. FOSTER.....     | Nashville.      |
| Texas.....                        | .....                     | Houston.        |
| Vermont.....                      | WARREN G. REYNOLDS.....   | Burlington.     |
| Victoria, Great Priory.....       | CHARLES CHAPMAN.....      | Melbourne, Aus. |
| Virginia.....                     | JAMES B. BLANKS.....      | Petersburg.     |
| Washington.....                   | YANCEY C. BLALOCK.....    | Walla Walla.    |
| Wyoming.....                      | JOHN C. BAIRD.....        | Cheyenne.       |
| West Virginia.....                | ROBERT C. DUNNINGTON..... | Fairmont.       |
| Wisconsin.....                    | JOHN W. LAFLIN.....       | Milwaukee.      |

GRAND ENCAMPMENT—R. E. Sir LaRue Thomas, Grand Master, Maysville, Ky.; William H. Mayo, Grand Recorder, St. Louis, Mo. Next Triennial Grand Conclave, at Pittsburg, second Tuesday in October, 1898.

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

COMMISSIONED TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

| <i>Grand Commandery.</i>              | <i>Representative—Postoffice.</i>        | <i>Date of Commission.</i> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alabama .....                         | Rev. N. G. Augustus, Durant.....         | March 16, 1893.            |
| Arkansas ... ..                       | Rev. Wm. P. Browne.....                  | January 15, 1890.          |
| California .....                      | Phineas M. Savery, P. G. C., Tupelo...   | March 27, 1890.            |
| Colorado .....                        | T. G. Birchett, M. D., Vicksburg.....    | January 24, 1890.          |
| Connecticut .....                     | John A. Dicks, Natchez.....              | December —, 1892.          |
| Georgia .....                         | J. C. French, P. G. C., Natchez.....     | December 7, 1892.          |
| Illinois .....                        | Wm. G. Paxton, P. G. C., Vicksburg...    | January 22, 1890.          |
| Indiana .....                         | Frank H. Foote, Port Gibson.....         |                            |
| Iowa .....                            | Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Vicksburg...   | December 31, 1889.         |
| Kansas .....                          | Wm. G. Benbrook, P. G. C., Natchez...    | July 13, 1896.             |
| Kentucky.....                         | John H. Gordon, P. G. C., Port Gibson... | January 1, 1890.           |
| Louisiana .....                       | E. Geo. DeLap, P. G. C., Natchez.....    | 1892.                      |
| Maine .....                           | C. L. Lincoln, Columbus .....            | October 16, 1895.          |
| Massachusetts and<br>Rhode Island.... | B. A. Vaughan, P. G. C., Columbus.....   | December 10, 1895.         |
| Minnesota .....                       | H. M. Romberger, P. G. C., Winona...     | November 12, 1895.         |
| Missouri .....                        | J. L. Power, Jackson.....                | February 4, 1890.          |
| Nebraska .....                        | Emmet N. Thomas, Greenville .....        | April 12, 1894.            |
| New Hampshire...                      | Gid. W. Cox, P. G. C., Columbus.....     |                            |
| New York.....                         | Enoch Geo. DeLap, Natchez .....          | January 15, 1890.          |
| North Dakota .....                    | John D. Miles, Vicksburg.....            |                            |
| Ohio .....                            | Rev. John A. B. Jones, Magnolia.....     | April 10, 1893.            |
| Pennsylvania ...                      | Chas. T. Chamberlain, Natchez.....       | March 14, 1893.            |
| South Dakota.....                     | Wm. G. Sykes, Aberdeen.....              | November 27, 1895.         |
| Tennessee.....                        | Wm. Starling, Greenville.....            | January 21, 1890.          |
| Texas .....                           | G. J. Bahin, Natchez.....                | July 14, 1896.             |
| Vermont .....                         | J. J. Hayes, P. G. C., Vicksburg.....    | November 15, 1895.         |
| West Virginia.....                    | W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C., Okolona...   |                            |
| Wisconsin ... ..                      | John A. Dicks, Natchez .....             | November 20, 1895.         |



# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

COMMISSIONED BY THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

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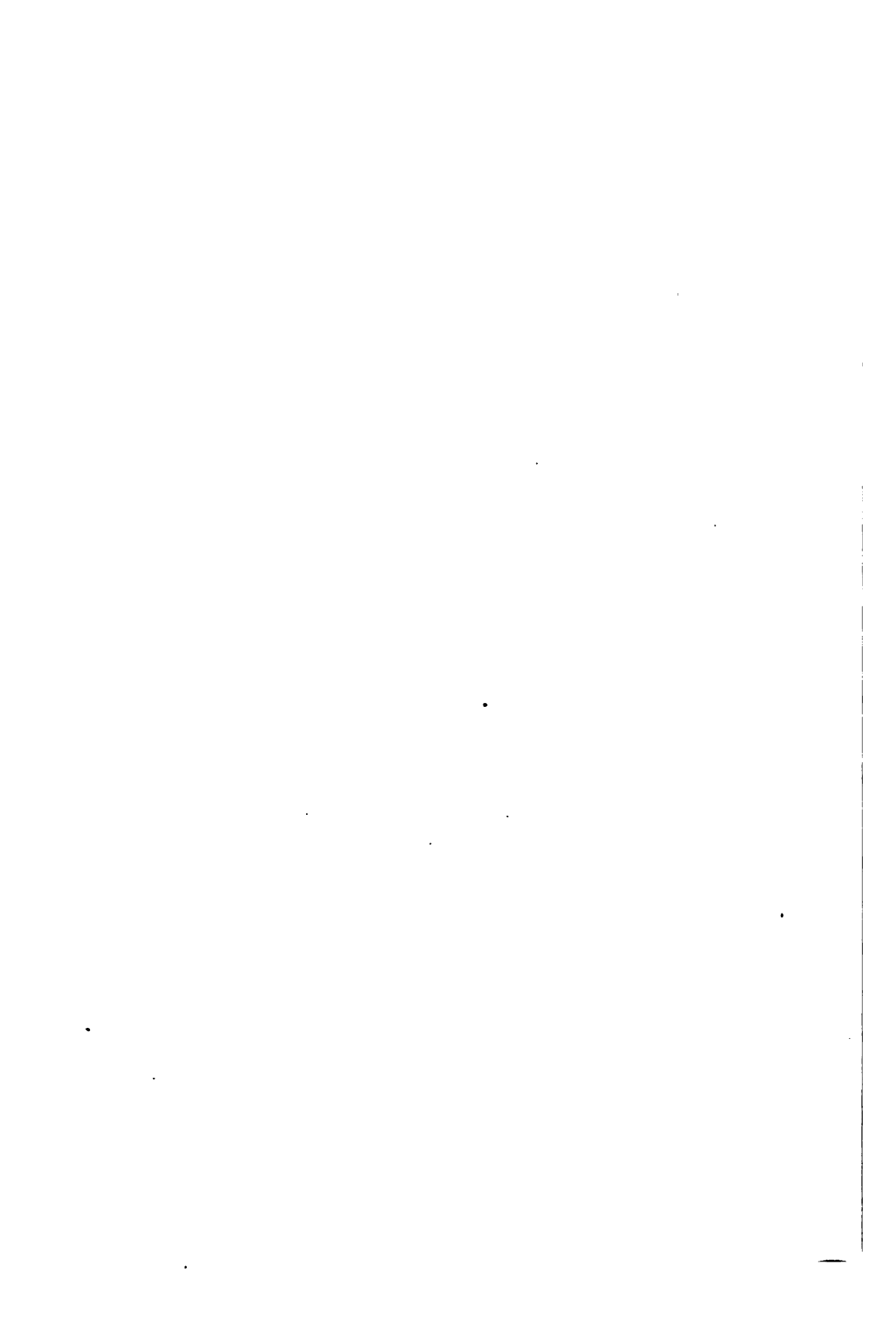
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|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alabama .....                           | Henry H. Matthews, Montgomery.....       | October 9, 1896.   |
| Arkansas .....                          | George P. Taylor, Forest City.....       | January 18, 1890.  |
| California .....                        | Thos. H. Caswell, San Francisco.....     | December 23, 1890. |
| Colorado.....                           | Alfonso A. Burnard, Leadville.....       | January 2, 1890.   |
| Connecticut.....                        | John W. Mix, Meriden.....                | October 19, 1896.  |
| Florida .....                           | John Sinclair, Jacksonville.....         | October 9, 1896.   |
| District Columbia.....                  | Albert B. Jackson.....                   | October 19, 1896.  |
| Georgia .....                           | L. J. Blalock, Americus .....            | October 9, 1896.   |
| Illinois.....                           | James C. Hawley, Dixon.....              | November 20, 1895. |
| Indiana .....                           | McD. Hays, Greencastle.....              | February 5, 1897.  |
| Iowa.....                               | James Morton, Cedar Rapids.....          | November 28, 1892. |
| Kansas .....                            | John M. Price, Atchison.....             | January 28, 1890.  |
| Kentucky.....                           | Reginald Heber Thompson, Louisville..... | June 18, 1892.     |
| Louisiana .....                         | Joseph H. DeGrange, New Orleans...       |                    |
| Maine.....                              | J. H. Drummond, Portland.....            | December 23, 1889. |
| Maryland .....                          | George Cook, Baltimore.....              | October 8, 1896.   |
| Massachusetts and<br>Rhode Island. .... | Benjamin Rowell, Lynn.....               | December 16, 1892. |
| Minnesota .....                         | Charles H. Mox, Crookston .....          | June 28, 1893.     |
| Missouri .....                          | Rev. Alex. M. Dockery, St. Louis.....    | February 5, 1890.  |
| Montana .....                           | E. D. Aiken, Butte City .....            | July 10, 1881.     |
| Nebraska .....                          | Louis F. de Loremier, Desha.....         | October 8, 1896.   |
| New Hampshire...                        | Rev. Daniel C. Roberts, Concord.....     | August 10, 1891.   |
| New Jersey .....                        | Thomas Godson, Newark.....               | December 23, 1889. |
| New York.....                           | John Anderson, Binghampton.....          | March 25, 1892.    |
| North Carolina.....                     | J. W. Hunter, Winston.....               | December 20, 1889. |
| North Dakota.....                       | Frank A. Briggs, Bismark .....           | October 8, 1896.   |
| Ohio .....                              | William L. Beuchner, Youngstown...       | March 11, 1893.    |
| Pennsylvania .....                      | James H. Coddington, Towanda.....        | October 19, 1897.  |
| South Dakota.....                       | Levi B. French, Yankton.....             | May 8, 1893.       |
| Tennessee.....                          | Morton B. Howell, Nashville.....         | January 21, 1890.  |
| Texas .....                             | George Hotchkiss, Dallas.....            |                    |
| Vermont .....                           | George W. Squier, Swanton .....          | January 18, 1889.  |
| Virginia .....                          | John T. Parham, Petersburg.....          | August 5, 1889.    |
| Washington.....                         | Walter J. Thompson, Tacoma .....         | May 24, 1889.      |
| West Virginia.....                      | Thomas M. Durrah, Wheeling.....          | November 26, 1892. |
| Wisconsin .....                         | N. C. Giffin, Fond du Lac.....           |                    |
| Wyoming .....                           | John C. Davis, Rawlins.....              | October 8, 1895.   |



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# Grand Officers,

1897-'98.



JAMES T. HARRISON.....Columbus.....R.: E.: Grand Commander.  
WILLIAM STARLING... ..Greenville ....V.: E.: Dep. Grand Commandér.  
JOHN S. COBB.....Verona.....Grand Generalissimo.  
REV. JOHN A. B. JONES.. ..Magnolia.....Grand Captain-General.  
REV. EBENEZER THOMPSON..Biloxi.....Grand Prelate.  
GUS. J. BAHIN .....Natchez.....Grand Treasurer.  
J. L. POWER.....Jackson .....Grand Recorder.  
OLIVER L. MCKAY .....Aberdeen.....Grand Senior Warden.  
HARRY T. HOWARD.....Biloxi.. .....Grand Junior Warden.  
J. F. DIXON .....Natchez.....Grand Standard Bearer.  
R. H. HENRY .....Jackson .....Grand Sword Bearer.  
W. X. WILSON .....Tupelo .....Grand Warder.  
G. T. ROBERTSON.....Water Valley..Grand Captain of Guard.



## STANDING COMMITTEES.

TEMPLAR LAW—Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Vicksburg; William G. Paxton,  
P. G. C., Vicksburg; P. M. Savery, P. G. C. Tupelo.  
FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—E. G. DeLap, P. G. C., Natchez, Reporter.  
TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE GRAND ENCAMPMENT—E. N. Thomas, C. W. Gibson,  
Harry T. Howard, J. H. Wright, B. A. Weaver.



*The Thirty-eighth Annual Conclave will be held in Water Valley, on Tuesday,  
February 8th, 1898, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m.*





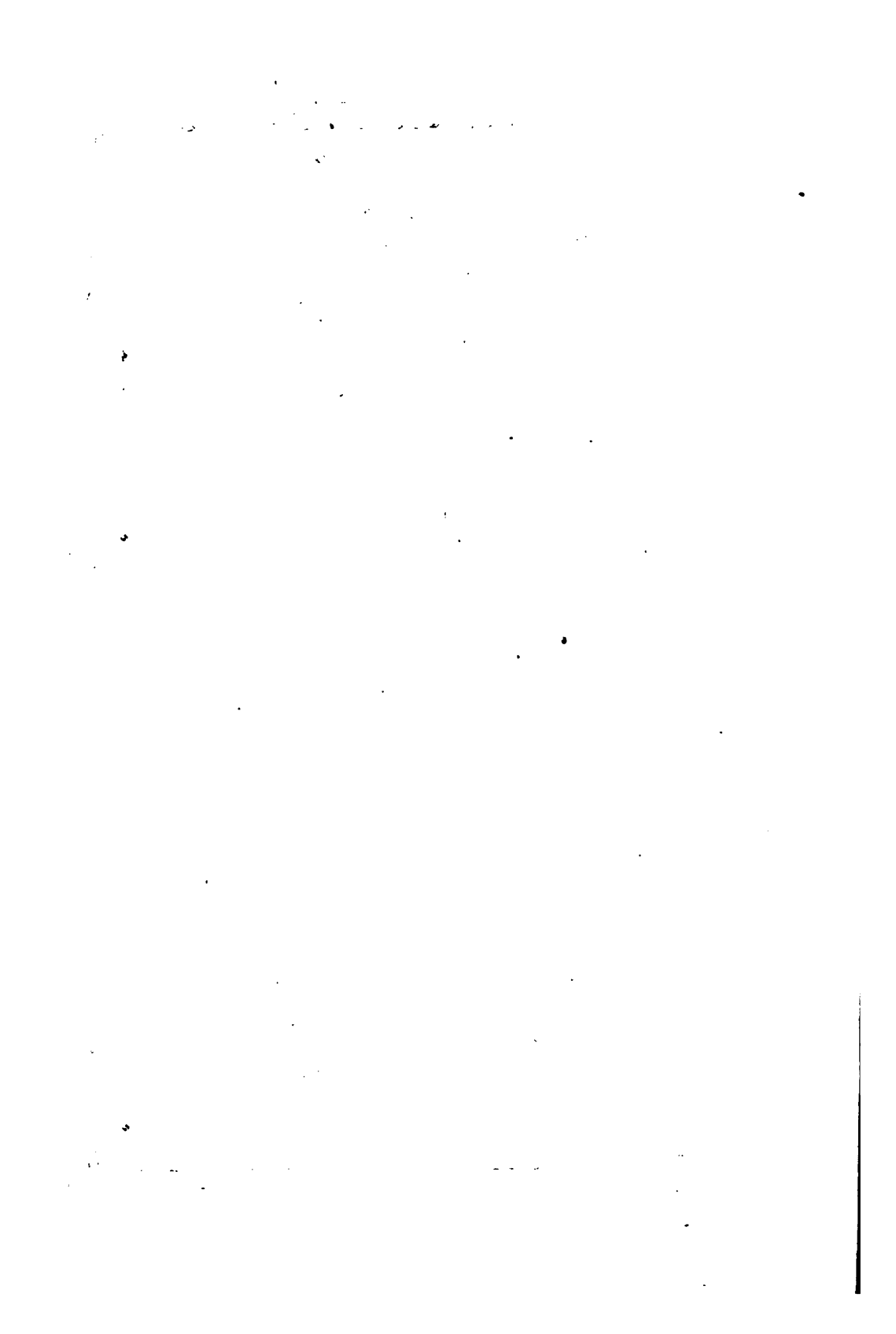
Thirty-Eighth  
Annual Conclave



GRAND  
COMMANDERY  
OF  
MISSISSIPPI.



1898.







JAMES T. HARRISON,  
GRAND COMMANDER, 1897.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

# GRAND COMMISSION

KNOWLEDGE

STATE OF

WATER

1906



GEORGE W. BROWN, JR.  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION  
1906



JAMES T. HARRISON.

GRAND COMMANDER 1897.

FMIS  
v38

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

—OF THE—

# GRAND COMMANDERY

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR,

—OF THE—

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

—HELD AT—

WATER VALLEY, FEBRUARY 8-10.

1898.



JACKSON, MISS.:  
CLARION-LEDGER PRINT.

1898.



*The Thirty-Ninth Annual Conclave*

WILL BE HELD IN VICKSBURG, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY  
7TH, 1899, COMMENCING AT 10 O'CLOCK A. M.



# Grand Commandery of Mississippi.

## Thirty-Eighth Annual Conclave.

THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI assembled in its Thirty-Eighth Annual Conclave in the Asylum of St. Cyr Commandery No. 6, in the City of Water Valley, on Tuesday, the 8th day of February, A. D., 1898, A. O. 780, at 10 o'clock A. M., there being present the following

### *Grand Officers:*

SIR JAMES T. HARRISON ..... R. E. Grand Commander.  
SIR WILLIAM STARLING ..... V. E. Dep. Grand Commander.  
SIS JOHN S. COBB ..... Grand Generalissimo.  
REV. SIR JOHN A. B. JONES ..... Grand Captain-General.  
REV. SIR EBENEZER THOMPSON ..... Grand Prelate.  
SIR GUS J. BAHIN ..... Grand Treasurer.  
SIR J. L. POWER ..... Grand Recorder.  
SIR OLIVER L. MCKAY ..... Grand Senior Wardeu.  
SIR HARRY T. HOWARD ..... Grand Junior Warden.  
SIR J. F. DIXON ..... Grand Standard Bearer.  
SIR R. H. HENRY ..... Grand Sword Bearer.  
SIR H. M. ROMBERGER ..... as Grand Warder.  
SIR G. J. ROBERSON ..... Grand Captain of the Guard.

### *Past Grand Officers.*

R. E. JNO. K. FULSON ..... Past Grand Commander  
R. E. E. GEORGE DELAP ..... Past Grand Commander  
R. E. H. M. ROMBERGER ..... Past Grand Commander  
R. E. PHINEAS M. SAVERY ..... Past Grand Commander  
R. E. FREDERIC SPEED ..... Past Grand Commander  
R. E. J. C. FRENCH ..... Past Grand Commander  
R. E. FRANK P. JINKINS ..... Past Grand Commander  
R. E. J. M. BUCHANAN ..... Past Grand Commander  
Rev. Sir N. G. AUGUSTUS ..... Past Grand Prelate.

Also present, the Representatives of fourteen Subordinate Commanderies, several Past Eminent Commanderies, a large number of visiting Sir Knights, and the following

*Grand Representatives:*

|                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Grand Commandery of Alabama .....    | REV. SIR N. G. AUGUSTUS   |
| Grand Commandery of California ..... | R. E. SIR P. M. SAVERY    |
| Grand Commandery of Georgia.....     | R. E. SIR J. C. FRENCH    |
| Grand Commandery of Iowa.....        | R. E. SIR FREDERIC SPEED  |
| Grand Commandery of Louisiana.....   | R. E. SIR E. GEO. DELAP   |
| Grand Commandery of Minnesota .....  | R. E. SIR H. M. ROMBERGER |
| Grand Commandery of Missouri.....    | SIR J. L. POWER           |
| Grand Commandery of Nebraska.....    | SIR EMMETT N. THOMAS      |
| Grand Commandery of New York .....   | R. E. SIR E. GEO. DELAP   |
| Grand Commandery of Ohio.....        | REV. SIR JNO. A. B. JONES |
| Grand Commandery of Tennessee .....  | SIR WM. STARLING          |
| Grand Commandery of Texas.....       | SIR G. J. BAHIN           |

The Grand Commandery was opened in Ample and Knightly Form, the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir Ebenezer Thompson, invoking the Divine Blessing.

The Grand Commander, R. E. Sir James T. Harrison, then read his Address, as follows:

ADDRESS OF GRAND COMMANDER.

*Sir Knights and Fraters:*

Most cordially I welcome you to this the 38th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, but miss, with regret, the presence of those gallant Knights who were wont to grace such occasions with their presence, but who now, alas! by Death's decree have sheathed their swords and march no longer under the Banner of the Order.

By the grace of God we meet again; then let each heart throb its gratitude and every mind implore Divine inspiration upon our deliberations.

Notwithstanding yellow fever, that "pestilence that walketh by noon-day," invaded our Jurisdiction during the year, and some true hearts that never yielded to mortal foes went back to dust—for to the pride of Templarism be it said, not a Commandery where the plague prevailed was recreant to its duty—yet the Order has prospered.

My official duties have been merely perfunctory; attention only being called to dispensations, etc.: for harmony has prevailed to that extent that we can say, so far as Templarism is concerned, that there has of a truth been "peace on earth and good will to men," and so may it ever be.

CHRISTIAN OBSERVANCE.

On December 10th I issued a General Order requesting the Commanders to assemble in their Asylums on Christmas day, and after suitable services, respond, in the usual way, to the sentiment suggested by the Triennial Committee of Grand Encampment, relating to the Grand Master of Templars in the United States.

## GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER AND ASCENSION DAY SERVICE.

It is the custom of the various subordinate Commanderies of the United States to show their allegiance to our Saviour by attending divine services in commemoration of His death, Resurrection and Ascension, and it is meet and proper so to do. Yet I am constrained to say that, so far as my knowledge along that line extends it has either fallen, into disuse or never existed in this Jurisdiction, which I say to our shame, for such conduct ought not so to be. Sir Knights, let us now resolve that in future we will rectify this negligence for I would that this complaint might not be made against us again.

## NECROLOGY.

It becomes my sad duty to record the death of Sir BOLIVAR A. VAUGHAN, Past Grand Commander, the "beloved physician," who died at his post of duty at Columbus, November 5th, 1897, for, as he issued a young life into existence, he gave up his own, under the immediate influence of a stroke of paralysis. He had passed the number of years allotted to man to live, and such was his usefulness, his death was a public calamity :

"None knew him but to love him,  
None named him but to praise."

Nearly twenty-three years ago he, as W. M. of Columbus Lodge, No. 5, made the writer a Master Mason, and after an intimate knowledge of him from that time until the day of his death, and after filling all the chairs in my local Lodge and Chapter and all in the Grand Lodge, Chapter and Commandery, I can truly say, without invidious comparison, that he was the most punctual Mason to every duty I ever knew, and I don't believe that a better heart ever beat in the bosom of any man. He was in every sense a chivalrous Sir Knight and Christian gentleman. What more can be said? We laid him to rest in Friendship Cemetery on a Sabbath so beautiful that Nature must have been exhausted in its perfection and every honor, Masonic, civic and military was his, and tears renewed acquaintance with many eyes from which they had been long estranged.

I received official notice from Grand Master W. Larue Thomas of the death of Sir JOHN Q. A. FELLOWS, P. G. M., which occurred at New Orleans on November 28th, 1897. It was my pleasure to have both a Masonic and personal acquaintance with this great and good man, whose eulogy I feel unable to attempt; yet none esteemed him more than I and none were worthy of more esteem than he. The world gained by his life and lost by his death.

We mourn with our Sister Commanderies in the following deaths reported :

M.: E.: Sir BENJAMIN DEAN, P. G. M. and Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commanderies of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

R. E. Sir Christian Bernhard Kliebacker, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of Maryland.

R. E. Sir William Morgan Brooks, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee.

E. M. Sir Thomas Jefferson Melish, Past Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Ohio.

R. R. Sir Jerome R. Gordon, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

Em. Sir Theodore Schreiner, Grand Sentinel of the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

R. E. Sir Joseph K. Marlay, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska.

R. E. Sir Garra B. Noble, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

Em. Sir Archibald B. Cox, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

Em. Sir John Dwyer, G. G. of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska.

Em. Sir John Sayles, P. G. C. G. of the Grand Commandery of Texas.

R. E. Sir Luther Zoan Rogers, P. G. C. of the Grand Commandery of Minnesota.

Em. Sir Joseph B. Clark, Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina.

Em. Sir Eug. Robinson, P. G. C. G. of the Grand Commandery of Michigan.

R. E. Sir Daniel Spry, Honorary Past Supreme Grand Master and Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Great Priory Knights Templar of Canada.

#### GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

On March 10, 1897, I issued a Commission to Sir Martin S. Willard of Wilmington, as the Grand Representative near the Grand Jurisdiction of North Carolina.

Our Grand Representative near the Jurisdiction of New York sent the following courteous "Christmas Greeting:"

BINGHAMPTON, NEW YORK, )  
December 25, 1897. }

*Sir Jas. T. Harrison, Grand Commander Knights Templar:*

While the song of peace and good will is still with us, accept my hearty congratulations and most sincere Christmas greetings. May the Great Captain of our Salvation send you and yours every good and perfect gift.

Courteously,

JOHN ANDERSON,

Representing Grand Commandery of Mississippi, near Grand Commandery of New York.

#### SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS.

For reasons satisfactory I granted the following special dispensations: May 4, 1897—To Mississippi Commandery No. 1, to act on the petition

of Companions C. Williamson, A. A. Bourgeois and L. H. Applegate at a regular meeting in less than the usual thirty days. This was a case of emergency, as per petition.

May 26, 1897—To Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10, to elect and confer orders on Companions J. A. McDonald and C. J. Park. This Commandery had not done work for a year, and the petition not only showed renewed interest but stated that it was a necessity.

June 1, 1897—To Lexington Commandery, No. 3, to ballot out of time on Companions J. H. Fuqua, Jr., Henry Christmas, J. H. Pahlen, J. E. Stanfield, W. W. Watson and J. H. McBee. This was a case of emergency; parties leaving the State, etc.

July 15, 1897—To Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10, to ballot on application and confer orders of Knighthood on Companion J. N. Abernathy, as he was to move to the "Mississippi bottom" in a few days.

September 25, 1897—To meet in Special Conclave on Tuesday, September 28, to ballot on petitions of Companions L. F. West and R. C. Gibson. To receive and ballot on petitions of Companions J. S. Brown and John R. Moore. This was done as a matter of convenience, as the Companions lived quite a distance from Commandery, which had missed two regular meetings, one on account of sickness of members, another caused by quarantine regulations, and this Commandery had shown such commendable diligence during the year that I not only disliked to discourage it by refusal, but *per contra* thought it deserved some consideration.

December 12, 1897—To Ivanhoe Commandery No. 10, to receive and ballot out of time on application of Companion A. W. McDonald. This was a matter of convenience as the Companion lived at some distance.

January 24, 1897—To St. Cyr Commandery No. 6, to confer orders, etc., at special Convocation to be held January 29, on Companions Frank Smith of McConnico, R. A. C. No. 96, Comp. J. E. Crosley, same R. A. C. as above; Comp. C. C. Pascoe, same R. A. C.; Comp. A. W. McDonald, Lexington, R. A. C. No. 9; Comp. John H. Moore, Tupelo, R. A. C. No. 78; Comp. A. G. Smith, Booneville, R. A. C. No. 115. This was a case of emergency, as the Grand Commandery was to meet in Annual Conclave with this subordinate in a few days, and the wish was to take in the Companions to assist said Commandery on said occasion. The petitions upon which these requests were based are filed with this report that everything may more fully appear.

#### INSTALLATIONS.

At the request of the "Coast Commandery," not being able to attend, I authorized and empowered R. E. Fenman B. Hicks, P. G. C. of the jurisdiction of Wyoming, to install its officers.

#### WAIVER OF JURISDICTION.

Having received a request from St. Elmo Commandery, No. 18, to apply to the Grand Commander of Louisiana, for a waiver of jurisdiction in the case of Comp. J. A. Hudgins, who wished to receive the Orders of

Knighthood from said Commandery as a matter of convenience, I did so, and received the following reply, the substance of which I at once communicated to St. Elmo Commandery:

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 13, 1897.

*Sir Jas. T. Harrison, R. E. Grand Commander of Mississippi, Columbus, Miss.:*

DEAR SIR AND FRATER—I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th, asking me, on behalf of St. Elmo Commandery, No. 18, of Brookhaven, to waive jurisdiction over Comp. J. A. Hudgins, of Kentwood, La., to enable him to join and have the Orders conferred in that Commandery.

In reply would state that it affords me pleasure to comply with your request and that of St. Elmo Commandery. In doing so I think it is for the good of the Order, and if my memory serves me right, you are quite right. Mississippi Grand Commandery granted similar requests in 1874 to Companions residing on Coast points.

Wishing you many returns of your kindly Christmas greeting to you and through you to the Sir Knights of your jurisdiction, I am,

Courteously and fraternally yours,

ROBT. STRONG, Grand Commander.

#### COURTESIES.

The following courteous invitation was received from the Grand Commander of Tennessee, and I would have promulgated same but for the fact that about the date of its reception the pestilence of yellow fever invaded our jurisdiction, and I deemed the time inauspicious, besides the strict quarantine regulations rendered the same to a great extent nugatory.

I mention the invitation at this time more particularly to have the Grand Commandery of Mississippi take this public manner of expressing thanks for same, and have it go upon record as a perpetual testimonial of its appreciation of the courtesy thus extended by a sister Jurisdiction:

OFFICE OF GRAND COMMANDER }  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE. }

*Sir James T. Harrison, Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Mississippi:*

DEAR SIR AND FRATER - Courteous invitation is extended to Grand and Past Grand Officers, Subordinate Commanderies, and all Knights Templar of your Jurisdiction, to be present and participate in the ceremonies and entertainments pertaining to Masonic and Knight Templar Day at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, at Nashville, October 14, 1897. Will you kindly, at your discretion, promulgate to the Knights of your Jurisdiction, and oblige,

Courteously yours,

W. J. ELY, Grand Commander.

Attest:

W. F. FOSTER, Grand Recorder.

I, now, as my labors are ended, sheath the sword of authority and surrender the position of Grand Commander back into your keeping. I take this occasion to thank you for the honor conferred, which, while it might have been more worthily worn by others, yet none could have appreciated your kindness more. I trust that the Order has not suffered

in my hands, and such mistakes as I have made I trust you will condone, and sincerely trust that you may give that loving obedience to my successor that you extended so readily to me.

Wishing both the order and him success, I earnestly hope that the Good Lord may so Order His mercies that we may all meet at the next annual conclave.

I thank our ever efficient Grand Recorder J. L. Power for his active and able assistance in routine work.

Courteously,

JAMES T. HARRISON, Grand Commander.

On motion of R. V. E. Sir E. Geo. DeLap, the Address of the R. V. E. Grand Commander was ordered spread on the minutes and referred—

1. So much as refers to Necrology, to a special committee of three.
2. So much as relates to Good Friday and Ascension Day, to a special committee of three.
3. So much as refers to Dispensations, to the Law Committee.
4. So much as refers to Grand Representatives, to a special committee of three.
5. So much as refers to Templar Courtesies, to a special committee of three.

Whereupon, the V. V. E. Deputy Grand Commander announced the Special Committees as follows :

*Necrology*—Sirs James T. Harrison, N. G. Augustus, Jno. A. B. Jones, Harry T. Howard.

*Good Friday and Ascension Day*—Sirs Wm. Starling, P. A. Lindholm, S. B. Brown.

*Grand Representatives*—Sirs E. J. Martin, C. E. Grafton, T. W. Grayson.

*Templar Courtesies*—Sirs E. N. Thomas, Geo. C. Hoskins, Frank P. Jinkins.

### *Expressions of Sympathy.*

Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed offered the following, which was unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, This Grand Commandery has learned with great regret of the long continued and serious illness of one of the most distinguished and learned Masons of this country, Past Grand Commander Enoch Terry Carson, of Ohio, whose distinguished service to the Order of the Temple, have won for him a lasting place in the affections of all true and courteous Knights Templar.

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Mississippi affectionately tenders to its distinguished Frater, its heartfelt sympathies and joins the Templar world in a sincere prayer to the Great Captain of our Salvation, that He will yet raise him up from his bed of sickness and prolong the days of his pilgrimage in this earthly asylum.

The Grand Recorder suggested that at the Offices of Devotion this morning the Grand Prelate specially remember our beloved and suffering frater, Past Grand Commander William G. Paxton, who is now and

has been for some weeks, seriously ill; and that these expressions of sympathy be telegraphed Sirs Carson and Paxton.

The Grand Commander announced as the

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS—Sirs W. H. Clifton, M. H. Leach and R. H. Henry.

### *Offices of Devotion.*

The Grand Commandery then proceeded to the Wood Street Methodist Church, where the Offices of Devotion were held in most solemn and impressive manner. The music was furnished by a select choir of ladies and gentlemen of Water Valley. The large audience appeared to be deeply interested in the service.

The Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir Ebenezer Thompson, delivered the following discourse :

### *Obligation and Privilege.*

For unto whomsoever much is given of him shall much be required.—St. Luke XII: 48.

*Sir Knights :* These are the words of our Blessed Leader and Lord. I think they are His words to us to-day, because they were not spoken to the world but to those who have been, in some sense, chosen out of the world. Certainly they are not addressed to the "submerged tenth," but to that tenth at the other end of the ladder of being to whom much has been given. To be sure there is among men a kind of self-importance that is deplorable, a self-satisfaction that is ridiculous, a bombastic pretentiousness that is a sore trial to sensible people, but when, however, a man gives evidence that he feels that every added honor brings new responsibility, every advance means new duty to those behind and below and above him, every exaltation gives more surface for God's blazing sun to shine on and more reason for keeping the armor bright, then he becomes a real leader in the community. He is the man who is worthy of higher honor. Now, as such a man is in a community, a growing man, a conscientious man, a devout man, courteous and kind and available, so I take it for granted Knight Templarism is, or ought to be, in our great modern American world. Therefore I say these words of our Lord are for us. I believe that Masonry is the most conservative power in the world to-day, and therein lies its strength, and so I want to challenge your Masonic experience with this truth, that every obligation has carried with it some new privilege, and that every privilege has been bound up with an obligation. Your presence here in uniform means that you have had an extended Masonic experience and have taken many obligations. As I look in your faces I see there lines drawn by your experience as men in the world. I have a right to suppose you have had some Christian experience. I know that you have pledged yourself to the cause of our Master. Now, on the basis of all this experience is it not very true that our obligations are bound up with our privileges and privileges with obligations? "To whomsoever much is given of him shall much be required."



Let there be no taint of Phariseeism in the thought that to us as individuals and as an Order much has been given, and let there be no flinching as we press home the truth, that of us will much be required.

As I look about for the pointed illustrations of this truth I cannot but think first of our ancient Companions in Arms. What a dramatic history was theirs for two hundred years. At first faithfully guiding, conducting, defending, standing up for the right of the oppressed and afflicted, until, as we know, Ancient Templarism won its way to fame and placed its central shrine on the *sacred site* of Mt. Moriah, while it held in its possession no less than 6,000 great estates in Europe. Then with prosperity came flattery and insincerity and insolence and forgetfulness of duty, decline, dispersion and death, and the few that escaped the persecution of Philip the Fair and Clement V., took refuge under the lowly mantle of the co-operative guilds or bands of builders which were the mediæval forerunners of our Masonic Lodges.

Thus thinking of this marvelous story of valor have I stood, on that sad island in the Seine, where, on March 11, 1314, the last of the leaders of our French comrades in arms yielded up his life at the stake, and have sought the true meaning of that strange history of which this tragedy was the climax. If the grand deeds of the Templars are in any sense our heritage certainly their mistakes are our warning. They grasped high privileges and forgot deep obligations. They illustrated that haughty spirit that goes before a fall.

It would be indeed a sad thing for us if from our vantage ground among the Secret Orders, we ever gave the impression that we were a party of fuss and feathers. No, we are pledged first to God and to His Christ as our leader, who went about doing good, who Himself was the most manly of men, who made the best the of men with whom He came in contact, who was gentle and courteous always, who came down to little things and little people, who yielded up his life for us, who died that we might live, who rose that we might have life from the dead, who left us as an example that we should follow his steps. He has given to each of us certain lofty moments of inspiration. He has bound us to Himself and claimed us as His in such an impressive way that pride is shut out, but let us each remember that the honor which He gave us in symbol when He bade us light the taper, carried with it the command to shine, to be translucent to give forth His light. "I am the light of the world," says He, and again, "Ye are the light of the world," not to be put under a bushel but to shine with His reflected light.

Are we, Sir Knights, content to settle down to mere conformity to law, civil or moral, when we are surrounded by multitudes who are always cutting under their standards, settling down into conformity with lower sanctions. I trust not, for if it is ever true of us as a body, then the time is not far off when the candle-stick shall be removed out of its place and men may say, "They were no better than their fathers."

To turn from admonitions to encouragements. What are the rewards that await valiant service? I think many of us make a great mistake in permitting an entrance into our minds of the *wages idea*. This mistake

was fostered at a certain point in our Masonic course and it is still the thought of many that the third and sixth and ninth and eleventh hour has reference to *time* instead of to the larger and larger opportunity and ability which is given so differently to different men, so that the eleventh hour man is simply the man of *small ability*, certainly not the man who can never find a place large enough to do his simple duty and so puts off duty till he comes to the ragged fringes of time which are of no use to himself or his fellow-man and an insult when offered to God.

No, the reward of duty well done is always ability to do more.

When that King of whom our Lord tells us, who gave the pounds to his servants and told them to occupy till He returned, was met with the joyous reply, "Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds," He does not say "Well done, good servant, go and sit down and rest ten years," nor "take these ten castles and enjoy them," but what? "*Be thou ruler over ten cities.*" And he must be a good ruler, too. Why, there are those before me who have tried being mayor over one city and I can appeal to them if the place is a sinecure. Does it not involve work and worry too? And then to be ruler over ten cities! Is it not almost equal to being governor, and you well know that in one way or another a governor has a pretty hard time of it. But the point is this, that the true reward of work well done is ability and opportunity to do more work and better work. That is of the very nature of the rewards of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Why, Sir Knights, are we cowardly hirelings looking for wages and a soft place to sit down (as some religious teachers would have us believe), or are we men, and sons of God looking out for the affairs on the estate of Our Father, whose world this is and whose interests are just as various as the men we meet and as eternal as souls are eternal. The reward of a good soldier is to go to the front. It is not permission to go to a safe place. The reward of a good scholar today is not a vacation but more work tomorrow. It is a privilege to be put at the post of danger. It is inspiring and uplifting to face the enemy, whether it be the open foe or the pestilence that walketh in darkness and the sickness that destroyeth in the noonday. But let us bring over some of this enthusiasm and inspiration to that field of conflict where the hosts of sin are pressing hard to draw men from the skies.

Friends and Sir Knights, I feel that we are in the school-boy days of our immortality and the highest reward I can think of for work well done is ability to do more and better work, not only here on earth but in the great beyond where we may be sent on God's high errands with the speed and the certainty and the exultant joyfulness learned in the lowly station of time, but continued with that continuity of life which shall be ours through eternity. Go on God's errands gladly. Never think of wages. The true and only reward is increased power. No man can take that from me which is within and which comes from above. Death even can not rob me, but will rather set me free to use these same powers in the boundless sphere that rounds out just above us and to which we already belong.

In all openness and frankness then, I ask if God has some message of love and mercy to send into the corners of His great estate that lies about us, who will carry it? Who is best fitted to go of His errands? Who has the most certain human and divine support behind him? A Mason and a Templar. Do you ask what that message is? It is not merely to obey the law, but to cherish and build up a high sense of honor and honesty in public and private dealing. It is a message of comfort and cheer to the low-spirited and down-hearted and discouraged. It is a lesson of making the best of men and developing their good points as did our Lord. It is an example of more regular and devout attendance on the Lord's worship on the Lord's day. It is the quiet illustration before men of the strength of the Grace of God which we can give, all the better, because we believe no man is set to guard another man's conscience. It is a message of simplicity and Godly sincerity and the avoidance of all duplicity and affectation and malignity. But why mention all this when it is all summed up in the taking Christ and His Spirit with us, who will teach us both what to say and what to do, as well as what to leave unsaid and what to avoid. His message by us also gains power and finds a more ready acceptance because of that great conservative force of which we are a part. If I speak to you as a Mason and reiterate the truth that while obligations follow privileges, privileges surely bring obligations, may I not with even more high and holy sanctions urge this vital truth upon you as Knights of the Temple?

Be loyal Sir Knights, like our elder brethren, the first to advance, the last to retreat. Be loyal to Him who has called you out of darkness into His glorious light. Be loyal and clean in *thought*, for that sums up the whole glory of a true Christian manhood, and even remember that to whomsoever much is given of him shall much be required, and to Father, Son and Holy Ghost let us ascribe all praise and majesty and might and dominion, world without end, Amen.

The custom of taking up a collection for the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum was observed, and the sum of \$82.75 realized. This included a check for \$25.00 by Sir Harry T. Howard.

The Grand Commandery having returned to the Asylum, the Committee on Credentials reported as follows:

#### *Report of Committee on Credentials.*

*To the Grand Commandery:*

Your Committee on Credentials beg leave to report that the several Commanderies are represented by the Sir Knights named:

MISSISSIPPI No. 1—R. H. Henry, Em. Commander.

MAGNOLIA No. 2—Frederic Speed, P.G.C, proxy for E. C.

LEXINGTON No. 3—Sir P. A. Lindholm, proxy for E. C.

HOLLY SPRINGS No. 4—Sir M. H. Leach, Em. Commander.

SIR J. G. LEACH, Generalissimo.

ROSALIE No. 5—Sir J. Foggo Dixon, Em. Commander.

ST. CYR. No. 6—Sir G. D. Brown, Em. Commander.

Sir S. B. Brown, Generalissimo.

Sir L. W. Deekle, Captain General.

DEMOLAY, No. 8—Sir James T. Harrison, Em. Commander.

CYRENE, No. 9—Sir E. J. Martin, Em. Commander.

IVANHOE, No. 10—Sir J. R. Price, proxy for E. C.

COUER DE LION, No. 13—Sir Jno. A. B. Jones, P.E.C., proxy for E. C.

DELTA NO. 16—Sir Wm. Starling, Em. Commander.

ST. ELMO, No. 18—Sir C. E. Grafton, Em. Commander.

Sir C. E. Batly, Generalissimo.

THE COAST, No. 19—Sir Harry T. Howard, Em. Commander.

Sir T. W. Grayson, Generalissimo.

### *Past Eminent Commanders.*

The following Past Eminent Commanders, not representing Commanderies, are in attendance :

Sir Nolan Stewart—Mississippi Commandery, No. 1.

Sir W. B. Taylor—Mississippi Commandery, No. 1.

Sir Geo. C. Myers—Holly Springs, No. 4.

Sir Sam H. Pryor—Holly Springs, No. 4.

Sirs C. Montgomery, J. B. Pate,—St. Cyr, No. 6.

Sir A. A. Posey—Aberdeen, No. 17.

Sir Wm. G. Sykes—Aberdeen, No. 17.

Your Committee are pleased to note the presence of the following visiting Knights :

Sir John W. Landrum, Grand Captain General Grand Commandery of Kentucky.

Sir B. W. Romberger, of St. Elmo Commandery, No. 27, Pennsylvania.

From Mississippi Commandery, No. 1—Sir J. J. White.

From Lexington Commandery, No. 3—Sirs C. C. Swinney. Jno. Belford, W. F. Cole.

From Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4—Sirs J. W. Stephenson.

St. Cyr, No. 6—Sirs E. F. Chrisp, T. F. Trainer, W. C. Blount, H. A. Gant, F. W. Weatherly, J. B. Rogers, R. C. Leland, J. N. Rose, D. H. Hollowell.

From Cyrene Commandery, No. 9—Sirs F. V. Brahan, T. R. Harrison, F. D. Bradley, C. M. Rubush, W. H. Howard, Irvin Miller.

Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10—Sirs J. T. Garrett, J. M. Davis, W. C. Peeler.

Delta Commandery, No. 16—Sir W. H. McClain.

Aberdeen Commandery, No. 17—Sir J. W. Eckford.

St. Elmo, No. 18—Sirs F. M. Beall, H. M. McColgan, W. F. Parsons.

Coast Commandery, 19—Sirs T. W. Gleason, E. E. Clement.

Also present, Sir M. A. Clark, of late Kosciusko, No. 11, and Sir John M. Stone, of late Mary, No. 14.

Courteously submitted,

W. H. CLIFTON,  
M. H. LEACH,  
R. H. HENRY,  
Committee.

The Grand Recorder submitted his report as follows :

*Report of Grand Recorder.*

FEBRUARY 8, 1898.

To the R. E. Grand Commandery :

I beg leave to submit my Twenty-eighth Annual Report as your Grand Recorder :

|                                                   |          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Mississippi Commandery No. 1. Dues 1896.....      | \$ 52 00 |
| Magnolia Commandery No. 2. Dues 1896 in part..... | 19 40    |
| Lexington Commandery No. 3. Dues 1896.....        | 12 00    |
| Holly Springs Commandery No. 4. Dues 1896.....    | 22 00    |
| Rosalie Commandery No. 5. Dues 1896.....          | 51 00    |
| DeMolay Commandery No. 8. Dues 1896.....          | 30 00    |
| Cyrene Commandery No. 9. Dues 1896.....           | 85 00    |
| Ivanhoe Commandery No. 10. Dues 1896.....         | 49 00    |
| Cœur de Lion Commandery No. 13. Dues 1896.....    |          |
| Delta Commandery No. 16. Dues 1895.....           | 45 00    |
| Aberdeen Commandery No. 17. Dues 1896.....        | 28 00    |
| St. Elmo Commandery No. 18. Dues 1896.....        | 55 00    |
| The Coast Commandery No. 19. Dues 1896.....       | 90 00    |

\$ 538 40

The disbursements for the year were \$588.55.

The Treasury balance this date is \$318.87.

The following tabulated statement shows the strength of the several Commanderies, and the gains and losses for 1897 :

| COMMANDERIES.      | No. | Knights. | Affiliated. | Reinstated. | Demitted. | Died. | Suspended for dues. | Expelled. | Total members. | Dues.    |
|--------------------|-----|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| Mississippi.....   | 1   | 4        | ..          | ..          | ..        | 1     | ..                  | ..        | 35             | \$ 55 00 |
| Magnolia.....      | 2   | ..       | 1           | ..          | ..        | 2     | ..                  | ..        | 49             | 50 00    |
| Lexington.....     | 3   | 5        | ..          | ..          | 1         | 1     | ..                  | ..        | 15             | 40 00    |
| Holly Springs..... | 4   | ..       | ..          | 1           | ..        | 1     | 6                   | ..        | 16             | 16 00    |
| Rosalie.....       | 5   | 2        | ..          | ..          | ..        | ..    | 2                   | ..        | 49             | 59 00    |
| St. Cyr.....       | 6   | 4        | ..          | ..          | ..        | ..    | ..                  | ..        | 55             | 75 00    |
| DeMolay.....       | 8   | ..       | ..          | ..          | ..        | 1     | ..                  | ..        | 31             | 41 00    |
| Cyrene.....        | 9   | 4        | ..          | ..          | 4         | ..    | 6                   | ..        | 67             | 85 00    |
| Ivanhoe.....       | 10  | 5        | ..          | ..          | ..        | ..    | ..                  | ..        | 49             | 74 00    |
| Cœur de Lion.....  | 13  | *        | ..          | ..          | ..        | ..    | ..                  | ..        | * 9            |          |
| Delta.....         | 16  | *        | ..          | ..          | ..        | ..    | ..                  | ..        | * 25           |          |
| Aberdeen.....      | 17  | ..       | ..          | ..          | 1         | ..    | 6                   | ..        | 20             | 20 00    |
| St. Elmo.....      | 18  | ..       | ..          | ..          | ..        | 1     | ..                  | ..        | 34             | 34 00    |
| Coast.....         | 19  | 3        | ..          | ..          | ..        | ..    | ..                  | ..        | 32             | 47 00    |

\*No report for 1897.

\*The membership of Nos. 13 and 16 estimated. Total in Jurisdiction

The death roll includes Past Grand Commander B. A. Vaughan, who died at Columbus at 12:30 November 5.

On 13th of April, I transmitted to the several Grand Recorders the following circular letter :

# GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

OFFICE OF GRAND RECORDER, )  
Jackson, April 13, 1897. }

The special attention of the Representatives of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi near other Grand Jurisdictions is called to the following proceedings of this Grand Commandery at its last Annual Conclave :

Past Grand Commander Speed offered the following, which was unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States has had under consideration a proposed draft for a new Constitution :

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Commandery that the organic law of the Grand Encampment ought to be modeled after that of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and should embody the principle that the several Grand Commanderies are entitled to the sole government and control of their subordinates, subject only to the regulation of the Grand Encampment in the matter of the Ritual, uniform, nomenclature, rank of officers and such matters as appertain exclusively to the general welfare of the Order, and leaving every matter and thing of local concern to the exclusive regulation of the Grand Commanderies.

*Resolved further*, That the Representatives of this Grand Commandery to all the other Commanderies, be and they are hereby directed to bring the subject matter to the attention of the bodies to which they are commissioned, with a request that they consider the same, and instruct their Representatives in the next Triennial Conclave, regarding their vote upon said proposed new Constitution ; and that said Representatives be directed to report the action of the bodies to which they are commissioned, to the Grand Commander, as soon as may be, after the same has been under consideration.

To Grand Recorder : In the event our Grand Representative should not attend Grand Conclave, kindly represent him and this Grand Body in above behalf.

Courteously yours,

J. L. POWER, Grand Recorder.

Our vigilant Reporter on Fraternal Correspondence has doubtless noticed the action taken thereon by the several Grand Commanderies.

March 4—Issued Charter to Coast Commandery as No. 19.

March 8—Notified by Grand Recorder of Indiana that he had forwarded to Sir James McD. Hayes, of Green Castle, commission issued to him as Grand Representative.

March 9—Issued commission to Sir Martin S. Willard as Representative to Grand Commandery North of Carolina.

September 11—Received and forwarded to Sir J. W. Keyes his commission as Representative of Grand Commandery of Montana.

November 19—Issued to Sir Jno. T. Boyd, Ardmore, Indian Territory, certificate that he was a member of Canton Commandery No. 10, in 1889.

October 19—Received a letter from Rev. Sir John C. Carpenter, Sherman, Texas, Grand Prelate of that Jurisdiction, in which he said: "In a few weeks I will enter on my 82d year. I was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Silas Brown Lodge in 1858; Exalted in Jackson Chapter No. 6, in 1859; Knighted in Mississippi Commandery No. 1, in 1859. My love for and zeal in the Order is unabated."

Sirs Thos. Palmer and T. W. Caskey, Past Eminent Commanders of Mississippi No. 1, ended their pilgrimage, the first in Colorado, and the other in the Lone Star State. I suggest that we wire our greetings to the survivor of that illustrious trio of good men and Masons.

Fraternally submitted,

J. L. POWER, Grand Recorder.

The Grand Treasurer, Sir G. J. Bahin, submitted his account with accompanying vouchers, as follows:

*Report of Grand Treasurer.*

G. J. BAHIN, Grand Treasurer,

IN ACCOUNT WITH GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

DR.

|                                               |           |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1897.                                         |           |
| Feb. 9—To balance this date.....              | \$ 369 02 |
| 1898.                                         |           |
| Feb. 8—To cash of Grand Recorder to date..... | 538 40    |
|                                               | <hr/>     |
|                                               | \$ 907 42 |

CR.

|                                                              |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1897.                                                        |           |
| By Pay Roll and Foreign Correspondence.....                  | \$ 203 50 |
| By printing, News Pub. Co.....                               | 4 00      |
| By printing, Harmon Pub. Co.....                             | 1 25      |
| By Grand Encampment dues.....                                | 24 40     |
| By proceedings and other printing.....                       | 201 05    |
| By Buffalo Courier Co., engraving portrait Grand Commander.. | 7 00      |
| By printing, R. W. Bailey & Co.....                          | 2 50      |
| By postage, express and telegrams.....                       | 19 85     |
| By salary Grand Treasurer.....                               | 25 00     |
| By salary Grand Recorder.....                                | 100 00    |
|                                                              | <hr/>     |
|                                                              | \$ 588 55 |
| 1898.                                                        |           |
| Feb. 8—On hand this date.....                                | 318 87    |
|                                                              | <hr/>     |
|                                                              | \$ 907 42 |

Fraternally submitted.

G. J. BAHIN, Grand Treasurer.

On motion, the reports of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer were referred to the Finance Committee; and the R. E. Grand Commander appointed as said committee, Sirs J. W. Eckford, D. B. Waddell, J. C. French.

The following telegram from Past Grand Commander Wm. G. Paxton was read :

VICKSBURG, July 8, 1898.

*To Sir J. L. Power, Grand Recorder*—Please express to all my kind Fraters my sincere appreciation of their solicitude, and my deep regret at my inability to be with them.

WM. G. PAXTON.

The Grand Recorder submitted several communications and circulars relating to the next Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, which were, on his suggestion, referred to the Special Committee appointed at last Grand Conclave to arrange for transportation, quarters, etc.

The following communication was read :

MERIDIAN, MISS., February 4, 1898.

*Sir J. L. Power, Grand Recorder*—In the matter of my appointment to serve on the Committee of Arrangements for the Triennial Conclave Grand Encampment, I beg to say that it will be impracticable for me to attend, and hence I suggest the appointment of another in my place.

I trust Mississippi will be well represented at the Grand Encampment, and in a manner that will reflect glory upon the Order and honor upon our State.

J. H. WRIGHT.

The resignation of Sir Knight Wright was accepted ; whereupon Past Grand Commander Frank P. Jenkins was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Sir E. N. Thomas, chairman of committee to arrange for representation at Grand Encampment, submitted a report containing much information received from the General Committee at Pittsburg, as to transportation, hotel rates, etc. Sir Thomas' committee recommended immediate action in the matter of securing headquarters, and urged a very general attendance from this Jurisdiction. The committee recommended that the committee be enlarged, which was agreed to, and Sirs J. C. French, L. A. Benoist and R. H. Henry were added to the committee.

[The Committee report, as submitted by Sir Thomas, could not be found by Grand Recorder.]

The committee, as enlarged, consists of Sirs E. N. Thomas, C. W. Gibson, Frank P. Jenkins, Harry T. Howard, J. C. French, R. H. Henry, L. A. Benoist.

On motion of Sir R. H. Henry, it was ordered that the sum of \$500.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be appropriated for such expenses as may be incurred by the committee.

### *The Committee on Templar Law*

submitted the following report, which was adopted :

*To the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar :*

The Committee on Templar Law beg leave to report that the only question submitted to it during the year was the following :

Question. At an election in a Commandery, where there were twenty-



two present and ten votes were cast for one candidate, eight for another and four were blanks, was there an election?

Answer. The By-Laws of this Grand Commandery require that a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to an election, while the statute of the Grand Encampment of the United States is that blanks are not votes and cannot be counted such in the election of officers. Section 13. Under the law of this Grand Commandery there was no election, because it would have required a majority of those present, twelve, to have elected, but as the law of the Grand Encampment rejects the blanks and does not permit them to be considered, there was an election, and being paramount to our By-Law, it must prevail.

The rule which has prevailed, so far as we know, heretofore, in this Jurisdiction, has been that laid down by the Grand Lodge, 57-1870, "that a brother has a right to cast away his vote, but the Lodge cannot refuse to count it in the aggregate number of votes given. A, having received only thirteen votes, when there were fourteen blanks, there was no election." This seems to be a sensible and reasonable rule, for it cannot be conceived, it appears to us, that less than an actual majority of the members present should rule in anything, but the fact that it is overturned by a statute of the Grand Encampment and but eight out of the twenty-two members present, are given control of the election, is plain, notwithstanding that they did not constitute a majority.

We are here afforded another example of the utter folly of the Grand Encampment attempting to legislate for the subordinator of a Grand Commandery in matters of purely local concern. It is all well enough that it should lay down the fundamental principles which are to govern the Order, but that a body meeting but once in three years, and then under circumstances which are utterly destructive of anything approaching deliberation, should deem it necessary to enter into the trifling details, which arise in the administration of bodies, widely separated and surrounded by diverse circumstances, seems to us to be neither wise nor expedient. Every Grand Commandery ought to be the sole judge of its domestic concerns and free to regulate the affairs of its immediate subordinates, and this would in no degree detract from the paramount authority or dignity of the supreme governing power. The laws of the United States are the supreme law of the land, but in the wisdom of the founders of our government there was much left to the determination of the people of each State, and amongst other things in which the general government has never exercised jurisdiction, are the laws governing local elections. There would seem to be no occasion for the Grand Encampment to enter into this field either. We have, however, voiced the sentiments of this Grand Commandery upon this subject in the resolution, which was adopted last year, that the organic law of the Grand Encampment "should embody the principle that the several Grand Commanderies are entitled to the sole government and control of their subordinates, subject only to the regulation of the Grand Encampment in the matter of the Ritual, uniform, nomenclature, rank of officers and such matters as pertain exclusively to the general welfare of the Order, and leaving every matter and thing of local concern to the exclusive regulation of the Grand Commanderies."

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED,  
WILLIAM G. PAXTON,  
PHINEAS M. SAVERY,  
Committee.

### *Improper Use of Templar Emblems.*

A communication was read from Sir Wilbur F. Foster, Grand Recorder Grand Commandery of Tennessee, submitting the following preamble

and resolutions adopted by the Grand Commandery of Tennessee at its last Annual Conclave :

WHEREAS, The Maltese Cross has for centuries been the official insignia of our Order, and

WHEREAS, We note with much regret the appropriation of this emblem by other secret orders and religious societies, and knowing as we do that their action in thus using an emblem the very name of which is significant of our Order, is absolutely unnecessary, and

WHEREAS, Such conduct on their part is only calculated to mislead, and has already caused unnecessary confusion, therefore be it

*Resolved*, 1. That this Grand Commandery protests against the action of other secret orders and religious societies in thus unnecessarily appropriating our time-honored significant emblem.

2. That our Grand Commander take such action as may be necessary to memorialize the Grand Encampment on this subject with the view of bringing about a moral influence that will stop other orders and societies from misleading the public by the use of our emblem.

The document was referred to a special committee, consisting of Sir Knights Wm. Starling, Frederic Speed, E. George DeLap.

Past Grand Commander E. George DeLap submitted his annual report on Fraternal Correspondence, which was ordered printed with the proceedings.

The following was offered and adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be allowed an annual compensation of one hundred dollars for his services.

JAMES T. HARRISON,  
P. M. SAVERY,  
O. L. MCKAY.

The Grand Commandery then proceeded to the

### *Election of Grand Officers.*

Sirs E. N. Thomas, J. J. White and H. M. Romberger were appointed tellers. The election resulted as follows :

|                           |                |                         |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| WILLIAM STARLING.....     | Greenville.... | Grand Commander.        |
| JNO. S. COBB.....         | Verona .....   | Deputy Grand Commander. |
| REV. JNO. A. B. JONES.... | Magnolia ..... | Grand Generalissimo.    |
| OLIVER L. MCKAY.....      | Aberdeen ....  | Grand Captain General.  |
| REV. J. A. BOWEN.....     | Water Valley.  | Grand Prelate.          |
| GUS J. BAHIN .....        | Natchez.....   | Grand Treasurer.        |
| J. L. POWER .....         | Jackson....    | Grand Recorder.         |
| HARRY T. HOWARD.....      | Biloxi .. ...  | Grand Senior Warden.    |
| G. D. BROWN.....          | Water Valley   | Grand Junior Warden.    |
| J. F. DIXON.....          | Natchez .....  | Grand Standard Bearer.  |
| GEO. C. HOSKINS.....      | Brookhaven..   | Grand Sword Bearer.     |
| R. H. HENRY .....         | Jackson.....   | Grand Warder.           |

On motion of Sir Savery, the Grand Commander elect was authorized to appoint the Grand Captain of the Guard from the Commandery stationed at the place to be chosen for next Grand Conclave.

The Committee on Templar Law submitted the following report, which was adopted :

*To the Grand Commandery :*

The Committee on Templar Law have had under consideration such matters contained in the address of Grand Commander as were referred to them, and recommend endorsement of his several dispensations and decrees.

FREDERIC SPEED,  
P. M. SAVERY,  
Committee.

At request of Delta Commandery No. 16, the Grand Commandery granted unto Commandery No. 6 authority to confer the Orders on certain Companions residing in the jurisdiction of Delta Commandery.

On motion of Sir DeLap, the very excellent address of the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir Ebenezer Thompson, was ordered printed in these minutes.

### *Templar Courtesies.*

*To the Grand Commandery :*

Your Committee would respectfully report that we appreciate very highly the kindness of our sister Jurisdiction, the Grand Commandery of Louisiana, in their waiver of right over Companion J. A. Hudgins of Kentwood, La., and permitting him to receive the Orders by St. Elmo Commandery, at Brookhaven, and we pledge ourselves to reciprocate at any time that opportunity may be afforded.

EMMETT N. THOMAS,  
F. P. JINKINS,  
GEO. C. HOSKINS,  
Committee.

The following report was submitted and adopted :

*To the Grand Commandery :*

Your Committee appointed to audit the accounts of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer beg leave to report that we find the same correct in every particular.

J. W. ECKFORD,  
D. B. WADDELL,  
J. C. FRENCH,  
Committee.

The Grand Officers elect were then installed in short but very impressive form by Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed. All being present except Sir Geo. C. Hoskins, Grand Warder elect.

The Grand Commandery adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

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## SECOND DAY.

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FEBRUARY 9, 1898.

The Grand Commandery resumed labor at 10 o'clock A. M.

R. E. Sir James T. Harrison requested that he be excused from the

Committee on Necrology, having, in his address as Grand Commander mentioned the death of our departed fraters. The request was granted.

The Committee asked permission to prepare report and file with Grand Recorder for insertion in the proceedings, which was agreed to.

### *Report of Committee on Necrology.*

Templarism is brotherhood, and brotherhood, if real, must find its true expression in communion with our brethren.

These annual reunions are oases in the journey of life which grow brighter as we look back to those that are past, and the expectation of whose coming cheer us amid the trials of life. How we love the warm grasp of a brother's hand, the loving glance of a brother's eye, the cordial greeting, the kindly interest of brother in brother. But the joys of communion with the living but serve to intensify the sorrow we feel as we remember the dead. Not all we love are here, not all we have met before meet us now as again we assemble in Grand Conclave. As we rejoice in meeting the living, so must we mourn for those whose places among us shall know them no more.

Your Committee has information of the death of the following Sir Knights during the past year :

W. H. TEGARDEN, Mississippi, No. 1, August—, 1897.

MICHAEL O'Gorman, Magnolia, No. 2.

ROBT. L. DUNN, Magnolia, No. 2.

D. M. DIGGS, Lexington, No. 3, January 11, 1897.

A. B. McCROSKY, Holly Springs, No. 4, January 22, 1897.

B. A. VAUGHAN, P.G.C., DeMolay, No. 8, November 5, 1897.

WALTER C. HARRIS, Ivanhoe, No. 10, November 12, 1897.

CHAS. J. HEUCK, St. Elmo, No. 18, July 27, 1897.

The Committee regret the want of data for suitable mention of these beloved fraters who have finished their earthly pilgrimage. It would be helpful if a brief biographical sketch accompanied the record of each death in the annual return.

In the case of Sir WALTER C. HARRIS we are informed that he was born February 8, 1865 : made a Mason in Ripley Lodge, No. 47, October, 1892 ; Exalted in New Albany Chapter, No. 49, July 9, 1893 ; greeted a a Royal and Select Master in Okolona, 1894 ; Knighted in Okolona, 1894 ; crossed the burning sands at Biloxi, February, 1897 ; died in Ripley November 12, 1897. He was for many years a passenger conductor on the Gulf and Chicago railroad. A manly, true, useful man has passed away in the morning of life, leaving one child and the loved wife of his youth to mourn their untimely loss.

The sudden ending of an unfinished and yet promising life is one of the saddest and most mysterious events presented to the consideration of men. To those who loved and who mourn our young brother, we extend our hearty sympathy.

We have spoken of a brother called from us in youth. We turn now to think and speak of a full, rounded and finished life.

When the news went abroad over our State that Sir B. A. VAUGHAN had gone from us, we grieved at his loss, but in view of his life and work we feel that the great Temple builder had taken up into the everlasting

Temple above a perfect Ashler to be placed in the eternal structure. SIR VAUGHAN was a useful citizen. As a man he acknowledged and fulfilled his duties to his country. He was a successful physician, and to his very last moments commanded and deserved the highest success in the discharge of the duties of that sacred calling, whose high and holy position it is to minister to human suffering.

He was a consistent and devout churchman. It was fitting that his manly nature should profess before men in loyal fidelity to the church he preferred, the deep convictions of his nature in the matter of obligation to God.

As a Mason and Knight he was known to all, and so known that words on that topic seem superfluous.

He loved, honored and was devoutly loyal to our sublime Order. We quote words uttered of him by a friend :

"His friendship was inestimable, his rectitude was irreproachable. Being a man of splendid attainments and great intellectual equipoise, he was strong in his opinions, but without dogmatism. Being a man of strong religious convictions, he was devout without fanaticism."

"A man who shrank from no duty, in war or in peace his life was one of ceaseless activity, and his lamentable death in the cause of human suffering was a noble end to the noble life he had lived."

We may conclude in the language of the greatest of the poets :

"In him the elements did so combine that nature might stand up and say to the world this was a man."

We loved them in life, we mourn them dead, we treasure their memories, we are inspired by their nobility.

N. G. AUGUSTUS, for Committee.

Sir Geo. C. Hoskins being absent when Grand Officers were installed yesterday, presented himself for installation, and was duly installed into the office of Grand Sword Bearer, by R. E. Grand Commander W. M. Starling.

The R. E. Grand Commander re-appointed and announced the Standing Committees :

TEMPLAR LAW—Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg, Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Vicksburg ; P. M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—E. G. DeLap, P.G.C., Reporter, Natchez.

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Conclave was then duly closed, the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir Ebenezer Thompson, leading the devotions.

**WM. STARLING,**

Grand Commander.

ATTEST :



Grand Recorder.

# RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 27, 1897.

(INCLUDING OFFICERS FOR 1898.)

## MISSISSIPPI COMMANDERY, No. 1—JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                             |          |                            |              |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|
| R. H. Henry .....           | E. C.    | H. M. Taylor .....         | Treasurer.   |
| Richard Griffith .....      | Gen'o.   | W. J. Brown, Jr., P. E. C. | Recorder.    |
| A. J. Chapman .....         | C. G.    | George Lemon, P. E. C.     | St. Bearer.  |
| J. L. Power, P. E. C. ....  | Prelate. | A. G. Lewis, P. E. C.      | Sw. Bearer.  |
| L. H. Appelgate .....       | S. W.    | J. J. White .....          | Warder.      |
| W. B. Taylor, P. E. C. .... | J. W.    | J. M. Cain .....           | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. A. Webb, D. P. Porter, R. F. McGill, Nolan Stewart.

MEMBERS—Robert Bradley, J. T. B. Berry, A. E. A. Bourgeois, W. J. Ferguson, H. M. Folkes, Geo. T. Gracay, B. W. Griffith, Wirt Johnston, B. C. Lemly, Jas. M. McKee, W. W. Moore, W. S. Pittman, J. W. Power, O. B. Quin, R. B. Rachford, J. F. Robinson, W. W. Robertson, J. M. Stingily, E. B. Tabor—35

KNIGHTED—L. H. Applegate, A. E. A. Bourgeois, J. J. White, J. M. Stingley.

DIED—W. H. Tegarden, August, 1897.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$55 00

## MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY, NO. 2—VICKSBURG, WARREN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 1st Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                               |          |                        |              |
|-------------------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------|
| John D. Miles, P. E. C. ....  | E. C.    | Henry W. Pown .....    | Treasurer.   |
| Charles H. Fife ... ..        | Gen'o.   | Alexander M. Paxton... | Recorder.    |
| Conway C. Flowerree ....      | C. G.    | Charles G. Wright .... | St. Bearer.  |
| William G. Paxton, P. G. C.   | Prelate. | A. L. Jaquith .....    | Sw. Bearer.  |
| William W. Curphey .....      | S. W.    | Albert A. Arnold ..... | Warder.      |
| Frederic Speed, P. G. C. .... | J. W.    | J. W. Parkhurst .....  | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—Jno. W. Powell, James J. Hayes, Edward C. Carroll, James K. Moore, Albert M. Lea.

MEMBERS—Charles E. Armstrong, Joseph Biedenbarn, Emile Bonelli, William M. Chamberlin, Robert B. Chapman, Samuel H. Chidress, Charles W. Gibson, James M. Gibson, William E. Gillmore, Charles E. Gore, Charles E. Grant, George L. Gurley, A. J. Hood, William E. Keisker, William G. Kiger, James H. King, B. F. Laurence, William W. Lord, William J. McKee, Charles Pare, M. R. Payne, John C. Pritchett, Lee Richardson, John D. Smith, Murray F. Smith, William J. Smith,

William Stanton, Phin. R. Starr, John Schlottman, L. J. Thomas, J. B. White, J. C. White, H. G. Wilson—49.

AFFILIATED—Charles E. Armstrong.

DIED—Michael O. Gorman, Robert L. Dunn.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$50 00

#### LEXINGTON COMMANDERY, No. 3—LEXINGTON, HOLMES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Tuesday night of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                       |          |                      |              |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|
| C. Oltenburg .....    | E. C.    | R. H. Baker .....    | Treasurer.   |
| W. P. Tackett .....   | Gen'o.   | P. A. Lindholm ..... | Recorder.    |
| R. A. Stigler .....   | C. G.    | E. F. Noel .....     | St. Bearer.  |
| Jno. H. McBee .....   | Prelate. | Jno. Belford .....   | Sw. Bearer.  |
| J. W. Jordan .....    | S. W.    | C. C. Swinney .....  | Warder.      |
| J. E. Stanfield ..... | J. W.    | E. V. Ashley .....   | C. of Guard. |

MEMBERS—H. P. Davis, J. H. Fuqua, W. T. Johnson—15.

KNIGHTED—E. V. Ashley, J. H. McBee, J. H. Fuqua, E. F. Noel, J. E. Stanfield.

DIMITTED—J. D. Dabney.

DIED—D. M. Diggs, January 11th, 1897.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$40 00

#### HOLLY SPRINGS COMMANDERY, No. 4—HOLLY SPRINGS, MARSHALL COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Monday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                            |          |                            |              |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|
| M. H. Leach .....          | E. C.    | R. A. McWilliams .....     | Treasurer.   |
| J. G. Leach .....          | Gen'o.   | L. B. Mosby, P. E. C. .... | Recorder.    |
| W. B. Bradberry .....      | C. G.    | W. S. Hill .....           | St. Bearer.  |
| G. C. Myers, P. E. C. .... | Prelate. | J. R. Horton .....         | Sw. Bearer.  |
| B. F. Popham .....         | S. W.    | S. H. Pryor, P. E. C. .... | Warder.      |
| J. H. Athey .....          | J. W.    | J. W. Stephenson .....     | C. of Guard. |

MEMBERS—H. D. Campbell, W. A. Heard, B. T. Kimbrough, J. L. Wilson—16.

REINSTATED—J. H. Athey.

DIED—A. B. McCroskey, January 22.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES--J. P. Alvis, J. J. Brooks, S. D. Hamilton, T. W. Lewis, J. H. Morgan, J. C. Sheets.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$16 00

#### ROSALIE COMMANDERY No. 5—NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY.

Regular Conclave 2d Saturday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                                |          |                     |              |
|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------|
| W. B. Irvine .....             | E. C.    | G. W. Koontz .....  | Treasurer.   |
| J. Foggo Dixon, P. E. C. ....  | Gen'o.   | C. F. Merrick ..... | Recorder.    |
| W. C. Hathcox .....            | C. G.    | W. Rutherford ..... | St. Bearer.  |
| E. George DeLap, P. G. C. .... | Prelate. | L. A. Benoit .....  | Sw. Bearer.  |
| M. Beltzhoover, P. E. C. ....  | S. W.    | M. Neiheysel .....  | Warder.      |
| F. S. Shaw, P. E. C. ....      | J. W.    | C. M. Sawyer .....  | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—W. G. Benbrook, C. T. Chamberlain, Jno. A. Dicks, J. C. French, Gus J. Bahin.

MEMBERS—T. Jeff Adams, W. H. Aikman, Sam'l D. Baker, Geo. M. Brown, J. A. Clinton, John Conner, L. P. Conner, Aug. Day, C. F. Farrar, J. S. Fleming, J. S. Gaynor, E. J. Guice, W. H. Hendrick, S. P. Hornsby, W. J. Kaiser, H. L. Klapp, David King, R. F. Learned, Chas. Morris, T. Q. Munce, C. H. McIlwaine, P. J. McCormick, S. McDowell, R. Lee Parker, Jacob Peebles, S. Pennywitt, J. J. Proby, F. L. Rumble, Hazen Steadman, M. A. Tyer, E. J. Van Court, Ben D. Watkins—49.

KNIGHTED—Louis A. Benoist, Hazen Stedman.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—W. L. Davis, A. H. Foster W. G. McNair, J. S. York.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$59 00

# ST. CYR COMMANDERY, No. 6—WATER VALLEY, YALOBUSHA COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Thursday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                           |          |                           |              |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| G. D. Brown, P. E. C..... | E. C.    | Joe Crooms, P. E. C.....  | Treasurer.   |
| S. B. Brown, P. E. C..... | Gen'o.   | J. B. Pate, P. E. C.....  | Recorder.    |
| L. W. Deckle.....         | C. G.    | E. F. Christ.....         | St. Bearer.  |
| R. H. Ramsey.....         | Prelate. | R. Spearman.....          | Sw. Bearer.  |
| D. H. Holliwell.....      | S. W.    | W. A. Price, P. E. C..... | Warder.      |
| C. E. Romberger.....      | J. W.    | G. J. Robertson.....      | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. K. Fulson, P. G. C., H. M. Romberger, P. G. C., I. T. Blount, C. Montgomery, W. C. Shackelford.

MEMBERS—W. H. Biles, J. V. Blackmeer, W. C. Blount, T. J. Binford, C. R. Cock, C. H. Campbell, Jno. Flack, H. Gibbons, Dr. H. A. Gant, J. T. Goodwin, F. L. Hope, J. D. Haile, F. B. Herron, J. H. Johnson, Wm. James, Jno. Kirby, J. S. Kettle, Alex Kennedy, J. L. Kirby J. T. Lay, R. C. Leland, W. E. Moring, J. W. McCorkle, R. N. Owens, D. C. Powell, J. B. Rogers, W. R. Ruffien, B. R. Scott, A. T. Smith, W. D. Shell, W. F. Shoffner, E. C. Smith, T. F. Trainer, F. W. Weatherly, W. C. Winters, Dr. Jno. Wright, T. H. Walker—55

KNIGHTED—T. J. Binford, Wm. James, W. R. Ruffin, E. C. Smith.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$75 00

# DEMOLAY COMMANDERY, No. 8—COLUMBUS, LOWNDES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Friday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                     |          |                       |              |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| C. L. Lincoln.....  | E. C.    | M. A. Franklin.....   | Treasurer.   |
| B. A. Weaver.....   | Gen'o.   | C. W. Mills.....      | Recorder.    |
| T. B. Franklin..... | C. G.    | E. S. Moore.....      | St. Bearer.  |
| G. W. Cox.....      | Prelate. | Wm. D. Powell.....    | Sw. Bearer.  |
| H. N. Waddell.....  | S. W.    | J. P. Stansell.....   | Warder.      |
| C. C. Buder.....    | J. W.    | D. S. McClanahan..... | C. of Guard. |

MEMBERS—J. S. Billups, Willis Banks, G. Y. Banks, N. L. Davis, J. M. Easton, J. D. Guyton, J. T. Harrison, J. W. Gardner, W. R. Harrington, J. R. Mallory, Chas. G. McGee, H. Osborne, J. H. Stevens, C. E. Boykin, W. E. Warring, G. B. Wilmot, W. W. Westmoreland, W. C. McCullar, Frank Quinn—31.

DIED—B. A. Vaughan, November 5, 1897.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$41 00



## CYRENE COMMANDERY, No. 8—MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Thursday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                            |          |                   |              |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| E. J. Martin.....          | E. C.    | W. S. Harris..... | Treasurer.   |
| W. H. Howard.....          | Gen'o.   | H. C. Smith.....  | Recorder.    |
| B. V. White.....           | C. G.    | C. M. Rubush..... | St. Bearer.  |
| J. H. Wright, P. E. C..... | Prelate. | S. E. Wilson..... | Sw. Bearer.  |
| C. S. Eastman.....         | S. W.    | F. E. Smith.....  | Warder.      |
| R. E. Moody.....           | J. W.    | A. J. Peck.....   | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. S. McIntosh, J. M. Buchanan, P. G. C., D. B. Waddell, G. Smallhalf, O. A. Harrison.

MEMBERS—F. W. Bross, P. E. Blalack, W. E. Baskin, F. V. Brahan, W. D. Cameron, J. W. Collins, T. C. Carter, C. C. Coffee, I. H. Crane, Joseph Eaken, Charles Elmire, T. R. Harrison, J. S. Houston, Rev. T. B. Holloman, C. R. Hoyer, W. B. Harbeson, L. H. Hulse, C. L. Gaston, P. E. Goodwin, J. T. Iglehart, Rev. J. E. Jones, W. N. Jones John Kamper, E. B. Keeling, W. F. Kennedy, A. A. Kincannon, T. B. Lamb, T. C. Lyle, I. A. Mooser Rev. Irvin Miller, B. McClanahan, C. W. Morgan, J. N. Melton, C. E. Newcomer, B. F. Parke, D. A. Ray, W. B. Rogers, A. J. Russell, J. L. Spinks, S. A. Scruggs, J. H. Short, C. A. Stovall, J. A. Treadway, J. B. Watts, T. L. Wainwright, M. W. Woodbury, R. J. Wright—65

HONORARY MEMBERS—C. E. Starkweather, W. E. Keller.

KNIGHTED—F. V. Brahan, P. S. Gardiner, C. A. Stovall, J. N. Melton.

DIMITTED—J. R. Tackett, E. E. Clement, J. H. Neville, E. Thompson.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—M. J. Thompson, J. C. Andrews, C. C. Miller, W. W. Paterson, C. G. Westbrook.

Dues to Grand Lodge.....\$85 00

## IVANHOE COMMANDERY, No. 10—OKOLONA, CHICKASAW COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 3d Thursday of each month.

## OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                        |          |                        |              |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------|
| W. A. Bodenhamer ..... | E. C.    | T. W. Williams.....    | Treasurer.   |
| J. B. Hood.....        | Gen'o.   | W. J. Stockett .....   | Recorder.    |
| R. M. Sadler .....     | C. G.    | W. H. D. Crawford..... | St. Bearer.  |
| James Gordon.....      | Prelate. | J. M. Davis.....       | Sw. Bearer.  |
| J. R. Price .....      | S. W.    | W. I. Harrill.....     | Warder.      |
| O. L. Jacobi.....      | J. W.    | G. W. Anglin .....     | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—P. M. Savery, P. G. C., E. M. Walker, Frank Burkitt, N. G. Augustus, W. M. Buchanan, J. W. Keyes.

MEMBERS—Jno. S. Cobb, J. U. Abernathy, W. L. Burnett, W. A. Canty, L. B. McCuller, W. F. Wilson, N. Cayce, J. Q. Robins, J. F. Hodges, W. H. Griffin, J. M. Trice, C. W. Bolton, J. S. Harris, W. L. Burnett, B. M. McCullar, Jerry Seale, J. M. Dodds, J. S. Davis, D. H. Goff, Z. T. Harper, G. Ligon, W. J. Credlis, B. B. Fitzpatrick, Geo. G. Dillard, Geo. S. Henderson, J. T. Garrett, W. C. Peeler, Z. L. Russell—46.

KNIGHTED—J. R. Price, O. L. Jacobi, W. C. Peeler, J. U. Abernathy, D. L. Russell.

DIED—Walter Harris, November 12th, 1897.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$74 00

### ABERDEEN COMMANDERY, No. 19—ABERDEEN, MONROE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 4th Thursday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                     |          |                           |              |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| W. H. Clifton ..... | E. C.    | J. W. Eckford .....       | Treasurer.   |
| S. H. Berg .....    | Gen'o.   | O. L. McKay, P. E. C. ... | Recorder.    |
| T. B. Holmes .....  | C. G.    | W. G. Sykes, P. E. C. ... | St. Bearer.  |
| A. J. Smith .....   | Prelate. | J. A. Mayfield .....      | Sw. Bearer.  |
| G. S. Clopton ..... | S. W.    | A. A. Posey, P. E. C. ... | Warder.      |
| E. W. Holmes .....  | J. W.    | E. G. Smith .....         | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—F. P. Jenkins, P. G. C., W. B. Walker.

MEMBERS—J. A. Bowen, H. Campbell, W. A. Charping, C. W. Gibson, L. G. Nesbit, W. F. Thomas—20.

MITTED—J. L. Shell.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—J. C. Brown, W. S. Lindawood, V. M. Moore, Edgar Wilson, Metis Pucket, E. G. Smith.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$20 00

### ST. ELMO COMMANDERY, No. 18—BROOKHAVEN, LINCOLN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 2d Friday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                        |          |                            |              |
|------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|
| C. E. Grafton .....    | E. C.    | Henry Meyer .....          | Treasurer.   |
| C. E. Batty .....      | Gen'o.   | S. W. Hoskins .....        | Recorder.    |
| E. H. Easterling ..... | C. G.    | A. E. Moreton .....        | St. Bearer.  |
| W. F. Parsons .....    | Prelate. | A. A. Maxwell .....        | Sw. Bearer.  |
| F. M. Lee .....        | S. W.    | E. McCormack, P. E. C. ... | Warder.      |
| D. L. Easterling ..... | J. W.    | Chas. Heuck .....          | C. of Guard. |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—J. E. Seavey.

MEMBERS—Lee O. Bridewell, F. M. Beall, C. L. Carroll, Thos. E. Dixon, D. D. Ewing, J. W. Elliott, N. Greener, G. C. Hoskins, H. K. Hill, J. A. Hoskins, J. A. McCormack, Jr., E. M. Mason, H. McColgan, Manson Ryals, W. H. Seavey, W. R. Simmons, J. B. Tarsney, J. B. Tennent, A. J. Whitworth, T. O. Watkins, W. L. Wallace—34.

DIED—Chas. J. Heuck, July 27th, 1897.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$34 00

### THE COAST COMMANDERY, No. 19—BILOXI, HARRISON COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves 3d Thursday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                              |          |                        |              |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------|
| H. T. Howard .....           | E. C.    | L. Lopez .....         | Treasurer.   |
| W. K. M. Dukate .....        | Gen'o.   | H. J. Meaut .....      | Recorder.    |
| C. E. Clement .....          | C. G.    | L. R. Bowen .....      | St. Bearer.  |
| Eben. Thompson, P. E. C. ... | Prelate. | C. W. Wachenfeld ..... | Sw. Bearer.  |
| J. C. Bradford .....         | S. W.    | T. H. Gleason .....    | Warder.      |
| G. Edward Park .....         | J. W.    | R. B. Harrison .....   | C. of Guard. |

MEMBERS—L. B. Belt, W. T. Bolton, E. J. Bowers, E. L. Browne, J. P. Carter, J. B. Garrard, Wm. Gorenflo, T. W. Grayson, L. D. Herrick, N. C. Hill, C. D. Lancaster, Isaac Mosar, J. F. McCormick, P. G. M., E. W. Morrill, J. H. Neville, H. H. Richardson, T. J. Roselle, Collins Phelps, A. D. Shelton, W. A. White—32.

KNIGHTED—J. P. Carter, N. C. Hill, T. W. Grayson.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$47 00

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF COMMANDERIES.

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|                                                               |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Total Commanderies.....                                       | 14       |
| Knighted .....                                                | 27       |
| Affiliated.....                                               | 1        |
| Reinstated.....                                               | 1        |
| Dimitted.....                                                 | 6        |
| Died .....                                                    | 7        |
| Suspended for Non-payment of Dues.....                        | 4        |
| Total Membership, 1897, (estimated as to Nos. 13 and 16)..... | 483      |
| Increase over 1896.....                                       | 5        |
| Total Dues for 1897.....                                      | \$630 00 |

*In Fraternal Remembrance*

*of*

*R. E. Sir John Q. A. Fellows,*

*Of Louisiana,*

---

*R. E. Sir Benjamin Dean,*

*Of Massachusetts and  
Rhode Island,*

---

*Past Grand Masters of Templars  
in the United States,*

---

*And Other Eminent Knights who Entered into  
Rest during the Year 1897.*

---

*"Rest on your sheaves, your harvest work is done,  
Sir Knights, farewell ! for you the fight is won"*

*In Loving Remembrance*

*of*

*Sir Bolivar A. Vaughan,*

*Past Eminent Commander  
DeMolay Commandery No. 8,*

*Grand Commander 1886.*

---

*Died at Columbus, November 5, 1897.*

---

"He was the most punctual Mason to every duty I ever knew, and I don't believe that a better heart ever beat in the bosom of any man. He was, in every sense, a chivalrous Knight and Christian gentleman."—*Grand Commander.*

*In Loving Remembrance*

*of*

*Sir W. H. Tegarden,*

*Mississippi Commandery No. 1.*

*Sir Michael O' Sorman,*

*Magnolia Commandery, No. 2.*

*Sir Robert L. Dunn,*

*Magnolia Commandery, No. 2.*

*Sir A. B. McCrosky,*

*Kelly Springs Commandery No. 4.*

*Sir Walter C. Harris,*

*Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10.*

*Sir Charles J. Heuck,*

*St. Elmo Commandery, No. 18,*

*Who Finished their Pilgrimage and Entered  
into Rest during the Year 1897.*

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*"Death is the crown of life."*



WILLIAM H. STEVENS,

FIRST GRAND COMMANDER, 1857. BORN JUNE 2, 1815. DIED OCTOBER 16, 1884.

*In Loving Remembrance*

*of*

*Sir W. H. Tegarden,*

*Mississippi Commandery No. 1.*

*Sir Michael O'Gorman,*

*Magnolia Commandery, No. 2.*

*Sir Robert L. Dunn,*

*Magnolia Commandery, No. 2.*

*Sir A. B. McCrosky,*

*Red Springs Commandery No. 4.*

*Sir Walter C. Harris,*

*Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10.*

*Sir Charles J. Heuck,*

*Como Commandery, No. 18.*

*Finished their Pilgrimage and Entered  
the Order during the Year 1897.*

---

*This is in front of the*





**WILLIAM H. STEVENS,**

**FIRST GRAND COMMANDER, 1857. BORN JUNE 2, 1815. DIED OCTOBER 13, 1866.**



# REPORT ON FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Mississippi:*

DEAR BRETHREN—I courteously submit the following as my Eighteenth Report on Fraternal Correspondence, which, while not remarkably good, is yet not nearly so bad as it might be.

I have received and examined the following pamphlets:

|                           |      |                     |      |
|---------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Alabama.....              | 1896 | Montana.....        | 1897 |
| Arizona.....              | 1886 | Minnesota.....      | 1897 |
| Arkansas.....             | 1897 | North Carolina..... | 1897 |
| California.....           | 1897 | New Jersey.....     | 1887 |
| Connecticut.....          | 1897 | Nebraska.....       | 1897 |
| Colorado.....             | 1897 | New York.....       | 1897 |
| District of Columbia..... | 1897 | North Dakota.....   | 1897 |
| England & Wales.....      | 1897 | Oklahoma.....       | 1897 |
| Georgia.....              | 1897 | Ohio.....           | 1897 |
| Indiana.....              | 1897 | Oregon.....         | 1897 |
| Indian Territory.....     | 1897 | Pennsylvania.....   | 1897 |
| Iowa.....                 | 1897 | South Dakota.....   | 1897 |
| Illinois.....             | 1887 | Tennessee.....      | 1897 |
| Kentucky.....             | 1897 | Texas.....          | 1887 |
| Kansas.....               | 1897 | Wyoming.....        | 1897 |
| Louisiana.....            | 1897 | Washington.....     | 1897 |
| Maine.....                | 1897 | West Virginia.....  | 1897 |
| Massachusetts & R. I..... | 1897 | Wisconsin.....      | 1897 |
| Missouri.....             | 1897 | Vermont.....        | 1897 |
| Maryland.....             | 1896 |                     |      |

## ALABAMA—1896.

A pamphlet of only fifty-six pages, all told, contains the minutes (besides a large number of names) of the Thirty-Sixth Annual of this Grand Commandery. There were present: R.: E.: Sir Fletcher J. Cowart, Grand Commander; E.: Sir Henry Clay Armstrong, Grand Recorder; all the staff but four, 4 Past Grand Commanders, 7 Past Eminent Commanders, and delegates from 8 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is short, particularly so if you take out of it the names of Grand Representatives appointed and reports of inspections by staff officers. He issued a few dispensations, but for proper purposes. He

says: " \* \* \* It is gratifying to believe that, while no very marked advancement is being made, a healthy tone prevails in most of the Subordinate Commanderies."

He made no decisions. We excerpt from his conclusions :

"In conclusion, Sir Knights, permit me a parting thought—a plea for the consideration of the principles and the observance of the spirit of Templarism. I cannot admit that any temporal institution is founded upon finer or sounder principles. It is in truth a high calling, and he to whom the vows of Knighthood are but a jargon of rhetorical, though meaningless phrases—necessary only as a form of admission to a social club—is out of his place in a Commandery of Knights Templar. He is incapable of perceiving the high and holy beauties of truth, that divine attribute upon which our institution is planted. A Knight Templar should be of the highest order of men, a constant exponent of the world's true chivalry, an ideal Chevalier Bayard : in morals without fear, and in action without reproach. Let us be careful that our profession does not dwindle into formal show and ceremony—a mere matter of ritualisms, conviviality and dress parade."

It would be singular for a Templar to "admit that any temporal institution is founded upon finer or sounder principles," in fact it would be hard to find a better foundation than the Christian Religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. How many Templar Chevalier Bayards has our brother met during his pilgrimage ?

Proceedings local. No report on Correspondence. Proceedings not published until March, 1897. Conclave was held May 13, 1896. No doubt proceedings for 1897 will reach us before we close this report, so we pass Alabama for 1896 without further comment.

Sir Robert L. Douglass, Grand Commander.

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#### ARIZONA—1896.

The Fourth Annual was held in the city of Tucson, November 11. Present : R. E. Sir Ephriam J. Bennet, Grand Commander ; E. Sir Geo. J. Roskrige, Grand Recorder, all the balance of the Grand Officers, 2 Past Grand Commanders, 1 of them by proxy, quite a number of other Past Grand Officers, 8 Grand Representatives, not including ours, and delegates from 3 Subordinate Commanderies.

We note that the Deputy Grand Commander was appointed Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

The address is not a long one and treats of matters of local interest. We copy the prelude as being historically interesting :

"Another year has passed away, and we are again permitted to assemble around our altar without the loss of any knightly form. In welcoming you to this, the Fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Arizona, allow me to do so by expressing the confident hope that our Order and Masonry in general is entering upon a season of greater prosperity than has been experienced for many years past. The great national struggle for supremacy of the various political parties is now settled, and the clouds of adversity and unrest that have for many months

hung heavy over our horizon, will soon give way before the sunshine of reviving prosperity.

"No more fitting place could have been selected for this annual reunion of the representatives of the earliest defenders of the Christian Religion, than this beautiful city of Tucson. As nearly as we are informed, more than three hundred years ago the Cross of our Savior was planted on the banks of the Santa Cruz by those hardy pioneers of civilization, the Jesuit Fathers, whose devotion to their religious beliefs caused them to penetrate the wildest deserts then known to civilized man. Since all these years how great is the change.

"We come to greet you in all the ease and luxury of modern railway travel, and find, ready by the side of the great ruins whose early history extends back unknown hundreds of years, a beautiful, thriving city, equipped with all the great modern conveniences that contribute to our prosperity and happiness, and above all, peopled with great hearted men and women, whose chiefest aim is to give aid and support to the poor and weary pilgrims, and bear the Banner of the Cross onward and upward for the final approval of the Great Commander of our Salvation."

We would be pleased to know what a political campaign, of any sort, a ward caucus or a State Convention has to do with Templar Masonry? The R. E. is evidently a Republican and, like Bro. McKinley, thinks that the best remedy for hard times and unrest is to be found in legislation for the benefit of gigantic trusts and monopolies and increased taxation on the necessities of life. Perhaps this is true, but we confess our inability to see it. Nor can we see the propriety of incorporating into Templar addresses a thinly disguised "hurrah" on the account of the success of a political party.

He notes the fact that the tanglefoot used by Phoenix No. 3 came from a vineyard in Palestine, but we do not suppose that a drunk caused by that stuff would be any more Christlike or any less beastly than one of our plain, ordinary, everyday exhibitions of this sort.

Doubtless some ass that has about as correct a conception of the character and mission of our Lord as the Devil has of the joys of pardoned sin, will cite the wine episode at the marriage in Cana of Galilee as proof positive that the Savior looks with allowance on this sort of thing, but it won't do.

The proceedings were routine and local. Total membership 122, a gain of 8. They have a balance in treasury of \$437.

There is no report on Correspondence, although a committee was appointed.

R. E. Sir Jno. M. Ormsby is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder, as before.

Sir A. I. Sampson, Chairman Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

#### ARKANSAS—1897.

The twenty-fifth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Little Rock, April 20th. There were in attendance R. E. Sir Geo. Thornburgh, Grand Commander, all the staff, including Sir James A. Henry, Grand Recorder, four Past Grand Commanders, one Past Deputy Grand Commander, eight Past Commanders, twelve Grand Representatives and delegates from nine of the thirteen Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is very short and entirely devoid of other than local interest. Much space is occupied by copies of correspondence between the Grand Commanders of Arkansas and California and others in reference to discourteous treatment of an Arkansas Templar by Golden Gate Commandery of California, at Bosting, during the Triennial. The aggrieved claimed that he was on his way to take a drink with "Golden Gate" when he was met at the portals by a policeman who treated him roughly and told him he was off his beat and to get from there away, etc. "Golden Gate" says, in reply, that they had no police on guard and that the doors were wide open, etc. Peace was finally restored, which is gratifying. The moral of all this is—Avoid the flowing bowl and then you won't see a police officer where there is none, etc. Moral No. 2: Either abolish the Grand Encampment or prohibit the display, fuss, feathers and sich, incident thereto, as things now exist.

We find in the minutes an alleged report from the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence, which, besides a list of pamphlets received and filed and a statistical table, borrowed from Bro. Davies, of California, contains just eight lines! The promise is made, however, to do better next time. We also find in the minutes the following, which was referred to a Committee of Past Grand Commanders:

WHEREAS, The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States had under consideration a proposed draft for a new Constitution:

*Resolved.* That it is the sense of this Grand Commandery that the organic law of the Grand Encampment ought to be modeled after that of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and should embody the principle that the several Grand Commanderies are entitled to the sole government and control of their subordinates, subject only to the regulation of the Grand Encampment in the matter of the ritual, uniform, nomenclature, rank of officers and such matters as appertain exclusively to the general welfare of the Order, and leaving every matter and thing of local concern to the exclusive regulation of the Grand Commanderies.

*Resolved further.* That the Representatives of this Grand Commandery to all the other Grand Commanderies be, and they are hereby directed to bring the subject matter to the attention of the bodies to which they are commissioned, with a request that they consider the same, and instruct their Representatives in the next Triennial Conclave regarding their vote upon said proposed new Constitution: and that said Representatives be directed to report the action to the bodies to which they are commissioned, to the Grand Commander, as soon as may be, after the same has been under consideration.

We fully concur, and would be glad to hope that the resolution might accomplish good, but the history of the past gives no such promise.

The Order is in about the same state of quiet as in our State. Total membership 492. Neither gain or loss.

R. E. Sir Geo. G. Latta is Grand Commander: E. Sir James A. Henry, Grand Recorder: E. Sir Oliver C. Gray, Correspondent.

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#### CALIFORNIA—1897.

The 39th Annual was held in the City of San Francisco, on Thursday, April 22d, with the following in attendance:

R. E. Sir Trowbridge Ayer Ward, Grand Commander; E. Sir Thos. H. Caswell, Grand Recorder, together with the entire staff, 14 Past Grand Commanders, 13 Grand Representatives and delegates from 34 chartered Commanderies.

The address of the R. E. is an interesting *resume* of his official acts and deliverances. Forty-five pages are devoted to this address, a large number of them, however, being occupied by reports of Department Commanders and their Inspectors, which reports show that the Order is in an excellent condition. They are putting a new plan in operation which divides the State into Departments and these Departments into Sections, and these departments and sections are each under the control of Commanders, these being Grand Officers as far as possible. We are inclined to the opinion that the plan has considerable merit, but fear that the necessary cost for banquets for Red Cross work and other expenses which have been borne by the local Commandery, where the section or department meets, will eventually kill it. We note the R. E. refers to this fact and recommends an appropriation by the Grand Body to cover these expenses, stating one case where the local Commandery was put to an expense of \$400 for one Department Conclave. Now if the Department Conclaves cost \$400 each, there are three of them, the expense will be considerable. In connection with this department matter, the R. E. has this to say:

Under the resolution passed at our last Annual Conclave the establishment of Department Commanders and Inspectors was changed, and, as I have previously said, has benefitted our Order in this Grand Jurisdiction. I publish their reports to me in full, as the proceedings will show. I desire to call your attention to these reports, which show how faithfully each officer has, in my opinion, done his duty. Under this head I might say that their reports have shown me that very few Sir Knights of our State read the reports issued by your Grand Recorder. I think that one of two things should be done: Print enough reports so that every member of our Order in this State may have an opportunity to read them; or, cut down the expense of the publication of foreign correspondence. It costs us about \$400 a year to maintain the Committee on Correspondence alone, and out of a total membership of 3033 only a few, a very few, about 100 have read these reports, for which we are paying such a large amount.

In other words our distinguished frater suggests that it will be better to cut down the literary menu enjoyed by 100 brethren in his own command, saying nothing of the scores in other jurisdictions who enjoy reading the California reports, in order to enable the Templars of that State at these Department Conclaves to gorge themselves with good things in the way of meat and drink. "It is not so, but so it seems." A better way, it seems to us, would be to cultivate an appetite for the intellectual feast contained in these reports, by inducing your members to read just one of Bro. Davies' or Bro. Caswell's reports, and they will, if they are sensible men, and that is the sort they construct Templars of in that State, we say, they will keep up the practice themselves for ever after.

Touching status of Templars in Commandery, who are not in good standing in Lodge and Chapter, he remarks:

Therefore you see what a conflict there is between the laws of this Grand Commandery and the laws of our Grand Encampment, and I call your attention to this matter so that our representatives at the next Grand Encampment will try to remedy the same. We are all sworn to obey (1) the laws of our Grand Encampment, and (2) the laws of our Grand Commandery. We cannot do so when they conflict. If you will notice, the returns of the Inspectors show a dozen or more reported not in good standing in Lodge and Chapter. Riverside, No. 28, with a membership of 62, reports 5. This certainly is not correct, nor in accordance with our ideas of Templar and Masonic law. I firmly believe that every Sir Knight should be a member in good standing in Lodge and Chapter, in accordance with the laws of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of this State. If they were allowed, a large majority of the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction would have their dimits in their pocket and pay no dues and would affiliate with only our Commanderies; and I am afraid that if this practice is continued that some of our members will even take their dimits from our Commanderies and become members only of the Order known as the Mystic Shrine, of which Order their connection with use a Knights only gives them the privilege of becoming members. If these matters had been reported to me earlier, or, in other words, if I could have received the reports of our Inspector sooner, I would have instructed the Commanderies to suspend all members returned as not in good standing in Lodge and Chapter, but having received this information only within the past month, I submit the question to you for your consideration.

In all of which we concur except in his "we are all sworn to obey (1) the laws of our Grand Encampment." You may be in that fix over there in California, but in this part of the Lord's vineyard our *first* obligation is to the Grand Commandery of Mississippi. Our second, to obey the constitution, resolutions and edicts of the Grand E. while *under its jurisdiction*, and provided *they are not subversive of the true principles of Christian Knighthood*. Now, our final obligation and allegiance is to the Grand Lodge, and these are confirmed by an oath, hence if the deliverances of the Grand Encampment conflict with those of the Grand Lodge, it follows, naturally, that they are subversive of the true principles of Christian Knighthood in requiring us to violate a solemn oath, and we are as fully excused from any moral or other obligation to obey the behest of the Grand Encampment as though we had never taken the vows of knighthood. His dispensations and decisions were all right and proper. As a whole the address is a most excellent one and reflects credit upon its author and the Grand Commandery over which he presided.

A tabular statement shows the numerical and financial status of the thirty-six Commanderies of the Golden State:

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Total members.....         | 3,069        |
| Total assets.....          | \$ 97,394 29 |
| Liabilities.....           | 13,136 40    |
| Due from members.....      | 12,634 80    |
| Number fully informed..... | 2,699        |

An excellent portrait of the R. E. makes an elegant frontespiece for the pamphlet.

Grand Recorder reports total membership 3,033, a gain of \$6, which



we cannot reconcile with the above table. We presume, however, the difference is in time of reports.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance in hand of \$2,271.41. The Finance Committee reported the net assets of the Grand Commandery to be \$18,906.41.

Touching the Grand Commander's observations in regard to Foreign Correspondence reports, the Committee on Reports of Grand Officers makes the following report:

We also believe that the Committee on Correspondence should be maintained; that while the correspondence itself may not be read by a majority of the Templars of this Jurisdiction, it is of great value to those who do read it, and should be placed in the hands of every Templar in this Jurisdiction. The printing of such is the universal practice of all Templar Grand Jurisdictions.

Very true! Here is a dish of "crow" that we would have seen the Grand Encampment drawn and quartered before we could have eaten:

Sir WILLIAM ABRAHAM DAVIES, from the Special Committee on "Reparation," presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

*To the Grand Commandery of California:*

In the matter of the mandate of the Grand Encampment of the United States referring to the complaint of Elwood Commandery, No. 6, of Springfield, Ill., against *Cœur de Lion* Commandery, No. 9, of Los Angeles, Cal., for conferring the Orders of Knighthood upon Companion J. H. Dickerson, who, more than two years prior thereto had been rejected by Elwood Commandery, without a waiver of jurisdiction by said Elwood Commandery, and this Grand Commandery having, through its Committee on Jurisprudence, assumed the responsibility incurred by its constituent of Los Angeles for the acts complained of by said Elwood Commandery, the Grand Commandery of California, assembled in its thirty-ninth Annual Conclave this 22d day of April, 1897, in response to the mandate of Grand Encampment, hereby

*Resolves*, That Sir Knights William Oliver Gould, Chas. Fayette Lott, Hiram Throop Graves, Edward Spalding Lippitt and William A. Davies be and they are hereby constituted a committee with authority to tender to Elwood Commandery, No. 6, of Springfield, Ill., the ample and full apology of this Grand Commandery for the acts committed by our Los Angeles constituent:

Therefore, the undersigned, your Committee, courteously express the regrets of the Grand Commandery of California, that the unfortunate occurrence should have interrupted the friendly relations formerly existing with our Fraters of Illinois, with whom we desire as Knights Templar to be friends, as we are co-laborers in the cause of Templarism. With courteous and Knightly greeting we submit this apology for the consideration of our Fraters of Elwood Commandery of Illinois.

The Grand Recorder will, under the seal of the Grand Commandery, forward this action to Elwood Commandery, No. 6, of Springfield, through, and in care of the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

|                          |   |            |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| WILLIAM OLIVER GOULD,    | } | Committee. |
| CHARLES FAYETTE LOTT,    |   |            |
| HIRAM THROOP GRAVES,     |   |            |
| EDWARD SPALDING LIPPITT, |   |            |
| WILLIAM A. DAVIES,       |   |            |

Right eminent names are those and we regret the necessity that

called them to this feast. Had they believed that the position taken by Californial was the wrong one, in regard to perpetual jurisdiction, it would have been a pleasure to them, as it always is to a Christian gentleman, under similar conditions, to have receded from their former opinion and acknowledged that they were in error, but in this case it is an apology for violating a rule made by a body that had no just right to interfere in the domestic economy of the State Grand Commandery and their subordinate, hence the pill is unpalatable, or would be to this scribe.

One hundred and twenty-six pages of the pamphlet are occupied by Bro. Davies' report on Correspondence, in which he courteously, carefully and with marked ability, considers the transactions of 44 Templar Legislatures, including ours for 1896, which gets three full pages of fraternal attention. Under "Arizona" we find this:

We note the following from the report of the Committee on Reports of Grand Officers:

"While we recognize efficient duties rendered the Grand Commandery by our Grand Recorder, and trust that he may be spared many years to his lately acquired *addition* to his family, we are positive that the wish of the Grand Commandery that "his shadow may never grow less" cannot possibly be realized, as you can't take something from nothing."

We don't understand the reference—in plain English, we don't see the point. If the valliant Sir Roskrige can create an addition to his family, he certainly ought to be able to make a shadow. We think it's a joke and the committee should suffer for it.

We agree with Bro. D. A man that can, personally, produce an addition to his family, is bound to have *something* about his corporosity that the sun can't shine through. The "mathewmatical" proposition in the extract is irrefutable!

Bro. Davies' review of our pamphlet is full and friendly. He quotes from Bro. Jinkins' address, which he is pleased to style both eloquent and masterly; has a pleasant word for Bro. Walker and devotes nearly two pages to our report, made up, almost wholly, of clippings.

We have before expressed our views as to the character of Bro. Davies' literary work, hence it is not necessary for us to repeat that it is always first-class. We should like to devote more space to this review, but California has already monopolized a large slice of our limited supply.

Sir Geo. Dickson Metcalf is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent, same as before.

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#### CONNECTICUT—1897.

The Seventith Annual Conclave was held in the city of New Haven, March 16th. Present: Sir Lyman H. Johnson, R. E. Grand Commander, Sir Eli C. Birdsey, Grand Recorder, the entire staff, 16 Past Grand Commanders, 46 Past Eminent Commanders, 29 Grand Representatives, including Bro. Mix for Mississippi, and delegates from 11 Subordinate Commanderies. The address is very short, but is an interesting and well written paper. We copy from the "opening."

"Time in its ever steady and onward flight has brought us to this, the Seventieth (70th) Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut. The past, with its varied experiences, through which we have journeyed as an organization during these years, from infancy to the allotted age of man, is an open book before us. I shall not at this time attempt to turn all the pages of our history, except to glance at a few early ones, in comparison with the present. The early records state, that at an Assembly of New Haven Encampment, held on March 27th, 1827, "on motion, voted that Sir Knight Wm. H. Jones, (a charter member of New Haven Encampment,) be a committee to correspond with Washington and Clinton Encampments, relative to the expediency of forming a Grand Encampment for the State of Connecticut." On April 27th, 1827, "On motion of Sir Knight Curtis M. Doolittle, voted that the M. E. Grand Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General and Prelate, or their proxies, be delegates from this Encampment to join with delegates from other Encampments in this State to form a Grand Encampment for the State of Connecticut, and that they have power to do all things necessary and proper to promote the object."

His dispensations were for wise purposes. No questions of law were presented, hence no decisions were made. Peace prevailed in all their borders during the year.

The minutes are devoid of general interest. The treasury has a balance of \$592. Grand Recorder reports a total membership of 2,363.

On the evening of the day preceding the opening, "New Haven Commandery No. 2, opened wide the doors of its Asylum and hospitality, and both seemed to be without limit," when a reception and banquet were tendered the Grand Commandery. They had a nice time, indulged in toasts. (Wonder what brand of tanglefoot they used, if any. We hope that in "The land of steady habits" and at a Templar table there was nothing stronger than coffee.) One being to President McKinley, who is a member of Canton Commandery of Ohio, and an excellent gentleman besides. However, he is a trifle "off color" in assuming that an increase in taxation is likely to bring prosperity. A fine portrait of the R. E. makes an admirable frontispiece for the pamphlet, which is further embellished with a picture of Past Grand Commander John G. Root. An interesting sketch of his useful life and exceptionally honorable career, follows, which we would like to copy, but lack of space forbids.

Correspondence is the maiden effort of Past Grand Commander Hugh Sterling and will compare favorably with the best of these productions. His "opening chorus" follows:

"We respectfully submit this the first effort of the kind by your committee. Our regret is, that it does not contain that degree of merit which this jurisdiction in this particular line, has been credited with, and enjoyed for many years.

"We have endeavored to confine this review within the limit suggested, and, at the same time, include all matters of importance.

"The questions receiving most attention on the part of Correspondents and others are those which have occupied the Templar mind for some time, and doubtless will continue to be agitated as long as they remain in force, that of perpetual jurisdiction in particular, much has been written against its continuance and very little in its favor.

"In dealing with this question (or law), which gives to the body perpetual jurisdiction over material once rejected by it, it is well to bear in

mind that ours is an institution differing in many essential features from societies of more modern origin, and the admission of an unworthy person, whether in Maine or California, will and does work an injury that affects the whole institution as such.

"We are well aware that worthy candidates have been denied admittance into our ranks, solely on account of personal differences, which have nothing whatever to do with the moral character of the individual; we are also well aware that unworthy persons have been rejected who, were it not for perpetual jurisdiction, would move elsewhere, for the main purpose of obtaining that which they are not worthy to receive, and which they could not obtain where they were well known, because of their unworthiness. Fraternally,

Under Arkansas, and quoting Bro. Ruckle, we find :

"This may be good, sound, argument, and it may be a deprivation of a right which non-affiliates have been permitted to enjoy, nor do we think that there would be any gain to the general body of Masonry, but we do think it is a duty we owe the Blue Lodge to always maintain membership in that body as long as we desire to be a member of any Masonic organization. What would you say should any one ask you to propose his name for initiation if you knew that he only looked upon this as a necessary step towards being created a Knight Templar and intended as soon as his goal was reached to dimitt from the other bodies? I do not think that petition would ever get before a Lodge, and if it did I do not think the petitioner would.

"We are of the opinion that Sir Ruckle is right in this matter. If the Commandery is the attraction to the profane, and he cares only to maintain active membership in that body or perchance cannot afford to keep his membership in the other bodies, it seems to us that he should have that privilege. To force a brother to retain his connection with his Lodge against his wish will not add one particle to the welfare of that organization."

We are of the opinion that when a profane knocks at the door of the Lodge simply as a stepping-stone to the Commandery, he is unfit for either place and is about the right sort to join the Uniform Rank of the nigger Knights of Pythias! If Bro. Sterling believes what he says above he has the most singular idea of the proprieties of any one we have ever seen. The idea that a little five-cent watermelon-headed ass should be allowed to pass through the solemn ceremonies and sublime teachings of Ancient Craft Masonry simply to qualify him to win a cocked hat with a feather in it, wear a "trusty sword" and get it tangled up with his legs, is absurd to the last degree.

They say : "The good Lord has made nothing in vain," but we confess our utter inability to fathom His design in the creation of these ducks.

Bro. Sterling's attention to our pamphlet is full and fraternal, although he indulges in very little criticism.

Under New York we find this :

"When we consider that the State of New York has over eleven thousand Templars upon its roll, and upon which it pays a per capita tax, and its representation in the Grand Encampment is the same as that of a Grand Commandery having only one hundred and fourteen members, we are compelled in all fairness to admit the injustice of the present plan," in which we concur fully.

R. : E. : Sir Sam'l M. Bronson is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent, same as before.

## COLORADO—1897.

The Twenty-Second Annual Conclave was held in the city of Denver, June 1st. There were present: R. E. Sir Eugene P. Shove, Grand Commander; Sir Ed C. Parmelee, Grand Recorder, a full staff, 10 Past Grand Commanders, 1 Past Grand Generalissimo, a lot of Past Commanders, representatives of 22 Subordinate Commanderies and 16 Grand Representatives, among them ours.

The Grand Commander's address is comparatively short and is confined mostly to matters local. He opens thus:

"Twenty-one years ago the 14th of March passed, the Grand Commandery of Colorado was organized, and now we assemble in this its Twenty-second Annual Conclave, to which I have the high honor of cordially welcoming its officers and members.

"I submit the suggestion to you who are here for the first time that your rights and privileges in the deliberations of all matters to be presented to this Grand Commandery are equal to those enjoyed by the oldest member present. In the name of this Grand Commandery, I also extend a cordial welcome to all visiting Sir Knights.

"Only one discord among our Subordinates has threatened, which was amicably adjusted through my counsel and the moderation and good judgment of an Eminent Commander, and peace and harmony prevail throughout our beloved jurisdiction. Although the year has been one of great business depression, financial troubles and individual distresses, still I find the glow of Christian Knighthood undimmed, the willing bonds of brotherly love more cemented, and Christ is the Grand Commander.

"We meet again today, clasp glad hands, and gaze into each others faces after the year's separation, and pause with the memory of the departed.

Unless there is a marked difference between the spiritual condition of the Templars of Colorado and the balance of the world, we are inclined to think our brother has made a mistake in the name of the Grand Commander! We beg to express the hope that the moral plane occupied by the Templars over there is so high that they can justly claim Christ our Lord as their Commander in Chief.

Appropriate mention is made of the fraternal dead. Among his dispensations we find one allowing "Glenwood No. 20 to appear in full uniform on Christmas night, 1896, for the purpose of tendering a banquet and reception to its newly created Sir Knights, and to the Companions and brethren of the Chapter and Blue Lodge and their ladies at Durand Opera House." This was all right albeit the primal object of the entertainment was to catch petitions for the Orders. He also allowed another to make a "pilgrimage" to church. The same Commandery, "Ouray, No. 16," was allowed "to attend as escort the funeral of the wife of Sir W. B. Alexander, May 10th, 1897."

This also is all right unless social distractions and the matter of bank accounts are considered when the courtesy is accorded or refused.

He visited three Commanderies during the year. One more than half of the Subordinate Commanderies were collectively religious on Easter Sunday.

Under "Decisions" we find the following, which is so unique and so

completely new and strange that we make no apology for copying it in full:

The attention of this Grand Commandery at its last Conclave was called to the fact that Eminent Sir \_\_\_\_\_, a Past Commander of Pike's Peak Commandery, No. 6, and consequently a member of this Grand Commandery, had been convicted in the civil courts of an offense against the law, and was then in the penitentiary at Canon City, and that no charges had been preferred against him in his Commandery. The matter was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which made the following report, which was adopted:

*To the Grand Commandery:*

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the matter of a member of this Grand Commandery and a member of Pike's Peak Commandery, who is now said to be serving a term in the penitentiary of the State of Colorado, under a sentence of a criminal court of this State, respectfully recommend, as instructed by this Grand Commandery, that a commission, consisting of Sir Knights Carr, Atwood and Severy, be appointed to thoroughly investigate such matter, and report its conclusions to the R. E. Grand Commander, who shall act in the premises as he may be advised; and we further recommend that Pike's Peak Commandery No. 6, has been derelict in this matter, and merits the discipline of this Grand Commandery for its non-action.

W. D. TODD.  
JOHN M. MAXWELL.  
A. B. MCGAFFEY.

Under date of December 31, 1896, the Commissioner reported to me as follows:

DENVER, COLO., December 31, 1896.

*Mr. Eugene P. Shore, Grand Commander, Knights Templar, Colorado Springs, Colo.:*

RIGHT EMINENT SIR AND FRATER—I. The commission appointed by the Grand Commandery on June 2, 1896, for the purpose of thoroughly investigating the matter of Sir Knight E. R. Walter, a member of the Grand Commandery and of Pike's Peak Commandery No. 6, have had the matter under consideration and respectfully report as follows:

II. Owing to the pressure of private business on the hands of the chairman of the commission and to the absence of one member of the commission from the state for a considerable length of time, the matter was not brought under investigation until about the first of December, 1896.

III. On the 5th day of December a notice was prepared, setting forth the action of the Grand Commandery, appointing a commission, and informing the Sir Knight interested that on Monday, the 21st day of December, at 10 o'clock A. M., a meeting of the commission would be had at the office of the chairman for the purpose of such investigation, and informing him that he could appear in person or by attorney for the purpose of presenting to such commission any such matters or things pertinent to said investigation as he might be advised. The commission met at the time and place designated, and Sir Knight Walter appeared in person. The commission had before them a certified copy of the record of conviction of Sir Knight Walter. It also appeared that on December 5th, the day on which the notice was issued, the fact at that time being unknown to the commission, the state board of pardons had acted upon an application of Sir Knight Walter for pardon, and the commission had before it the proceedings of the said board of pardons, a portion of which record will be hereinafter set forth.

IV. Giving full force and effect to the *prima facie* case made out by

the record of conviction, the commission after full investigation of the facts of the case, of the statements set forth in the application for pardon, and of the statements orally made by the said Sir Knight Walter before the commission, we are still in doubt as to the propriety of said conviction. So much so, that had we been members of the jury, we feel confident we would have given him the benefit of the doubt and have voted for acquittal.

V. It appears also that Acacia Lodge No. 85, A. F. and A. M., of which Sir Knight Walter was a member, preferred charges against him for unmasonic conduct, after conviction, and upon full investigation before the Lodge unanimously acquitted him of the charges; and it was doubtless for that reason that Pike's Peak Commandery No. 6 deemed it unnecessary to take any further action in the premises.

VI. For this reason the commission recommend that the charges against said Commandery, appearing in the report of the committee on page 32 of the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of 1896, of being derelict in the matter and meriting the discipline of the Grand Commandery, be declared unfounded and said Commandery fully exonerated.

VII. The said board of pardons recommended to his excellency, the governor, a full and unconditional pardon for the said Walter for the following reasons:

"First—Because of his excellent standing in the community in which he lived, there never before having been any stain upon his character.

"Second—Because, as shown by letters and petitions, signed by some of the most prominent and worthy people of the state, and especially in the community in which he has lived, he still has the confidence and good will of those thoroughly cognizant of the facts.

"Third—Because the board believes that, *if he was guilty*, he has received sufficient punishment and is reformed and will in the future be a good citizen.

"Fourth—Because he will have immediate and remunerative employment in a position of trust.

"Fifth—Because from a full consideration of all the facts, both of record and presented to the board, in support of the petition, it seems that this is a case in which executive clemency can be justly, safely and beneficially exercised both to the defendant and the community.

"Sixth—Because of his excellent prison record."

VIII. In the third recommendation the italicized words are not so found in the original, but we have italicized them for the purpose of showing that there was at least some doubt in the minds of the board of pardons concerning the propriety of the conviction. Aside from this question of doubt, it appears from all the evidence presented that Sir Knight Walter is a man of excellent standing in the community; that he has the confidence of the people in the community in which he resides; that any wrong which may have been done has been fully expiated; that civil justice has been satisfied and the civil laws vindicated, and that the standing and reputation of neither Pike's Peak Commandery nor of the Masonic or Templar fraternity can be injured by a continued association with a man of that character.

IX. The commission therefore recommend that the Grand Commandery declare their confidence in Sir Knight Walter and in his Knightly character; that his standing in the Commandery and in the Grand Commandery shall remain unimpaired, and say to all persons throughout the world, if anyone have charges to prefer against the Sir Knight,

"Let him that is without sin cast the first stone."

Respectfully submitted,

B. L. CARR, Chairman.  
GEORGE N. ATWOOD,  
Commissioner.

I fully agree with the other members of the commission in the foregoing

ing report, *except for that part of paragraph IV., on page 2 of said report, following the word "conviction," in the sixth line of said paragraph, and reading as follows, to-wit :*

*"So much so, that had we been members of the jury, we feel confident we would have given him the benefit of the doubt and have voted for acquittal."*

I would substitute the following words, to-wit :

*So much so, that we are in doubt of Sir Knight ——— being guilty of the offense of which he was convicted.*

JAMES B. SEVERY,  
Commissioner.

I heartily concur in the findings and recommendations of the commission.

We note in the minutes that the Law Committee and the Grand Body sustained the report of the Commission. We also find that the same Committee reported as follows on our Fred's Grand Encampment resolutions :

*"We have carefully considered the circular containing the resolutions offered by Past Grand Commander Speed of Mississippi, in regard to the change proposed by him in the organic law of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, and unanimously and heartily recommend that this Grand Commandery do not concur therein.*

J. H. PEABODY,  
A. B. MCGAFFEY.  
W. W. ROWAN."

We are not very much surprised at this action. Some people are incompetent to judge as to what is or is not for their own interests, and that is what ails these people.

The same aggregation of incapacity also sat down on the funeral escort dispensation because it was establishing a bad precedent and some poor man to fortune and to fame unknown, might lose a precious, faithful wife and desire a similar evidence of sympathy from his brethren. This is where the "plague spot" in the precedent appears.

The finances are in a healthy state. The Order is in good shape. Total membership 1,697, a gain of 16.

Past Grand Commander Orahood presented his 17th report on Correspondence, covering sixty odd pages, and reviewing the minutes of forty-three Templar legislatures, in his usual modest and courteous style. Bro. Orahood gives Mississippi for 1896 a page and a quarter. He copies from Bro. Jenkins, remarking: "In his opening the Grand Commander uses language such as is sometimes attributed to people living further West. Some one might say it has a slightly mercenary tinge, although probably not so intended."

"Scarcely!" Bro. Jenkins has no idea of making an immigration speech, we feel sure, hence the saving clause in the above is eminently proper.

He quotes our remarks anent G. C. Todd's Templar religion and remarks: "We think Bro. Todd does not mean to be understood as Bro. DeLap interprets his statement, and that Bro. DeLap does not mean his criticism to be as hard and harsh as it seems."

We rise to assure our Brother that we meant not to be harsh or unkind. We copy Bro. Orahood's conclusions in full :



## CONCLUSION.

"In preparing this, our seventeenth annual report, we have reviewed the proceedings of each and all of our Grand Commanderies for the year 1896, including Canada. No absent member to be excused or accounted for. We have fully examined each of them, and read many carefully. Our regret has been that we could not give more of each; but our space is limited, and we have given only some of the many beautiful gems we have found so bountifully spread in the many pages we have read. There has been much to praise: something of omission to regret; but little to criticise adversely.

"The financial depression referred to in our reports of 1894, 1895 and 1896, seems to continue, as indicated by the reports we have examined this year. For ourselves we can say our experience is of a similar kind. We can sympathize with the general feeling, but we feel sure the worst has passed, and we are improving, even though it may be so slowly as to be scarcely perceptible.

"The old and the more recent questions which have been discussed by Grand Commanders and Correspondents have received attention during the year, but usually by the way of assent to the generally established trend of opinion: sometimes, however, by way of protest or kindly expressed dissent. Harmony and good will have generally prevailed, and fault-finding, harsh criticism and ill will have been conspicuously absent.

"Some new themes have received attention, notably the 'Armenian Question.' This has been a new expression of sympathy for an old condition—the sufferings of the weak under the oppression of the strong. The feeling and its expression are commendable: but the opportunities for effective action or favorable results are very meager, indeed. But it is something to stand up and be counted on the side of the right.

"Already the murmur of preparation for the next Triennial is heard. Our own Grand Commandery, at this Conclave, provides for a committee to hold until after that event. We commend to those who will comprise the next body a careful consideration of the many criticisms on past Conclaves for neglect of duty in failing to properly consider and dispose of needed legislation. However, it is of the social feature that we hear the notes of preparation: in this view it will certainly be a success. And as every society, organization or community reflects the general average standing, sentiment, feeling and morality of its members, we must conclude that the Triennial, with its attendant display and social features is a fair index to the desires of the great body of the Order. If improvement and advancement are made, it must be by a general uplifting and improvement of our members. The reports we have examined and reviewed show that our Order is improving and advancing."

And now with notes of alarm of the "Yellow Plague," (This September 13th.) and with an earnest prayer to our God for deliverance of our people and ourselves from the dread destroyer, we bid our Colorado brethren good night.

R.: E.: Sir Geo. J. Dunbaugh is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—1897.

The Second Annual was held in the city of Washington, May 10th.  
Present: Sir Frank H. Thomas, R.: E.: Grand Commander; Sir J. L.

Johnson, Grand Recorder, the entire staff except the Standard and Sword Bearers, 21 Grand Representatives, including Bro. Jackson for Mississippi, and Representatives and Past Commanders from the five Subordinate Commanderies of the District.

The address of the Grand Commander is a well-written resume of his official acts and deliverances, in which we find nothing of general interest, except that he is hopeful from expressions of members of the Body, that the Grand Encampment will settle down permanently at the Capital City. It makes but precious little difference to the best interest of Templary where it meets or whether it meets at all.

He issued a batch of dispensations, but for proper purposes. He made no decisions and was called upon to settle no quarrels or difficulties.

The proceedings are devoid of general interest. Treasury balance \$1,185.07. Total membership 1,501, a loss of 31, which looks bad.

There is no report on Correspondence. We note, however, the appointment of a committee for that work and it will discharge its duty.

R. E. Sir Rezin W. Darby is Grand Commander; E. Sir A. B. Bennett, Grand Recorder and Chairman of Foreign-Correspondence Committee.

#### GREAT PRIORY OF ENGLAND AND WALES—1897.

This being the first time we have been honored by a sight of the minutes of this body, we are at some loss to know just how to run the machine, and as the vast majority of you are equally ignorant of how they do things over there in the way of high sounding titles and names of officers we copy a part of the first page of the minutes, for your edification. Here it is:

##### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT PRIORY

Of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple, and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, in England and Wales and the Dependencies thereof, held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, on Friday, the 11th December, A. L. 5900, A. D. 1896, A. O. 778, at Five o'clock.

PRESENT: THE VERY EMINENT PROVINCIAL PRIOR FOR HAMPSHIRE,  
W. W. B. BEACH, M.P., G.C.T., ON THE THRONE, THE  
VERY EMINENT PROVINCIAL PRIORS FOR

|                            |                                           |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| East Anglia.....           | V.E. Knight Captain N. G. Philips, G.C.T. |
| North and East Yorkshire.. | " Major J. W. Woodall, K.C.T.             |
| Devonshire.....            | " Major Geo. G. Davie.                    |

##### GREAT OFFICERS.

|                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| V.E. Knight Rev. C. E. L. Wright..... | G. Prelate.       |
| " R. Loveland Loveland, K.C.T.....    | G. Chancellor.    |
| " Sir Reginald Hanson, K.C.T. as..... | 1st G. Constable. |
| " Colonel F. R. Sewell .....          | 2nd G. Constable. |
| " Ralph Clutton, K.C.T.....           | G. Treasurer.     |

|             |                                            |                                     |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| V.E. Knight | Frank Richardson, K.C.T.                   | G. Registrar.                       |
| "           | C. F. Matier, K.C.T.                       | G. Vice-Chancellor.                 |
| "           | Charles Belton, K.C.T.                     | G. Marshal.                         |
| "           | The Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, G.C.T. <i>as</i> | G. Almoner.                         |
| E. Knight   | A. W. Orwin                                | G. Herald.                          |
| "           | Alfred Cooper                              | G. Standard Bearer<br>(Vex. Belli). |
| "           | H. Percy Harris                            | G. Banner Bearer.                   |
| "           | Frederick Mead                             | 2d G. Aide-de-Camp.                 |
| "           | Dr. N. Goodchild                           | 2d G. Capt. of Guards.              |
| "           | Frederick Bevan                            | G. Organist.                        |

## THERE WERE ALSO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING KNIGHTS :

*London.*

|                       |                            |                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Walter J. Ebbetts     | Bard of Avon               | 2nd Constable.   |
| Herbert Wright        | Bard of Avon               | Almoner.         |
| W. John Songhurst     | Bard of Avon               |                  |
| John Dimsdale         | Faith and Fidelity         |                  |
| E. St. Clair          | Faith and Fidelity         |                  |
| H. Thomson Lyon       | Holy Palestine             | 2nd Constable.   |
| J. Harrison           | Holy Palestine             |                  |
| Henry W. Kiallmark    | Holy Sanctuary             | P. Preceptor.    |
| John R. Carter        | Mount Calvary              | Standard Bearer. |
| C. Horst              | Mount Calvary              |                  |
| E. M. Money           | New Temple                 | E. Preceptor.    |
| Robert A. Gowan       | New Temple                 | P. Preceptor.    |
| J. C. F. Tower        | Oxford and Cambridge Univ. | E. Preceptor.    |
| B. A. Smith           | Oxford and Cambridge Univ. | P. Preceptor.    |
| G. C. W. Fitzwilliam  | St. George's (6)           | 1st Constable.   |
| Major C. W. Carrell   | St. George's               | Herald.          |
| J. S. Tamburini       | St. George's               |                  |
| Sir Joseph C Dimsdale | St. George's               |                  |
| H. P. Hay             | Shadwell Clerke            | Preceptor.       |
| J. W. S. Godding      | Studholm                   | 1st Constable.   |
| Alfred H. Bevan       | Studholm                   |                  |
| W. J. Batho           | United Kemeys Tynte        |                  |

*In the Province of Cheshire.*

|                         |           |            |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| The Rev. C. C. Atkinson | De Tabley | Preceptor. |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|

*In the Province of East Anglia.*

|                        |              |                |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Francis A. Brooks      | Prudence     |                |
| R. Percy F. W. Simpson | Tancred      | P. Preceptor.  |
| William Briggs         | Tancred      | 2nd Constable. |
| W. Rainforth           | Temple Bruer | P. Preceptor.  |

*In the Province of Kent and Surrey.*

|                |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| A. H. Bateman  | Lullingstone | P. Preceptor. |
| William Briant | Lullingstone |               |

*In the Province of Lancashire.*

|                      |                   |               |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| C. Morton Challender | Hugh de Payens    | P. Preceptor. |
| Thomas Forrester     | Rose of Lancaster | Preceptor.    |

By reference to the above you will notice the propensity of our acquisitive cousins, across the pond, to work their titles, military, civil and hereditary, for all they are worth and without regard to time, place, or surroundings. Not that there is any special impropriety in the custom

in so far as the Templar Orders are concerned, but the use of distinguishing titles, other than those properly belonging to the officers in the Blue Lodge is an innovation upon the body of Masonry, the members of which are popularly supposed to meet and associate, in its assemblies, upon one common level. Free Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth, honors or titles, nor should Templary, which has for its foundation the Christian religion. Here is another specimen of the style, the elegant style, in which they do things over there.

The Great Marshall announced the V.E. Knight the Viscount Dungarvan, G.C.T., the Great Seneschal nominate, was in attendance.

The following Knights were then appointed a deputation, requested to retire and attend his lordship, viz :

Capt. N. G. Phillips, G.C.T.

Col. A. B. Cook, G.C.T.

Frank Richardson, K.C.T.

Sir Geo. D. Harris, K.C.T.

The trumpets having sounded.

The Very Eminent the Viscount Dungarvan, G.C.T., attended by the before-mentioned Knights, then entered Great Priory.

The Viscount Dungarvan, G.C.T., took the oath as Great Seneschal, was invested and enthroned, whereupon the Heralds in the east, south-west and north-west severally proclaimed as follows :

By the authority and in the name of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, I proclaim Charles Spencer Canning, Viscount Dungarvan, Knight Grand Cross, Prov. Grand Master for Somerset, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of Mark Master Masons, Most Eminent Grand Viceroy of the Red Cross of Constantine, Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the County of Somerset, Colonel of the Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry, &c., &c., &c., has this day been appointed Great Seneschal of England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown. His lordship being saluted accordingly.

The addition of a few more titles to the Viscount's rather extended list would make the item a little more interesting.

Then follows what is styled the "Report of Council," in which we find nothing startling or of general interest.

A special meeting was held on April 7th, 1897, at which the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, the Rt. Honorable the Earl of Euston, G.C.T., sat on the Throne. Delegates from Scotland and Ireland were in attendance, as visitors, and were received as follows :

"The Grand Master rose and said: Sir Knights of the Temple of England, I ask you to join with me now in giving a cordial vote of thanks to those brethren who have taken the trouble to come from Ireland and Scotland to visit us, and to give them the assurance that they have a most hearty and fraternal welcome from us. We hope as years go on and time progresses that we shall be more closely bound to each other, and that there shall be no difference between one country and the other. I can only say to you, brethren, from Ireland, that you have come a long way to visit us, and that we in turn desire to do our best to show you our working. To you, brethren, from Scotland, I would say that when I visited you the other day, I had a most hearty welcome, and I now give to you, in the name of the Grand Priory of England, the expression of their wish that you may go on and prosper as well as we are doing here. I greet you heartily. I now beg to move that this Grand Priory put on its minutes a hearty vote of thanks to those delegates from the Great Priory

of Ireland and Scotland, who have done so much in order to visit us to-day, while at the same time we acknowledge the heartiness of their kindness whenever we have gone to visit them.

"The Grand Seneschal: I have the greatest pleasure in seconding the vote of our Most Eminent Grand Master. I cannot add anything to what he has said, and I am certain that this vote will be carried with acclamation.

The vote was carried with much heartiness and with acclamation.

The Earl of Kintore (Great Seneschal of Scotland): Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, speaking for the Templars of Scotland, first let me say how much I regret that your kind words were not personally heard by Lord Creadalbane, our Grand Master. I know how anxious he was to be here and I feel that I am a very inefficient substitute for him. Then I may be permitted to say that he and we all feel keenly the pleasure that you have been so good as to express. We are all now in absolute amity and good will. We thank you heartily for the warmth of your welcome, which warmth shows how amicably and warmly we now all pull together. I hope this is only one of the first of many similar meetings and the precursor of one in which the Chapter General of Scotland may be able to return the hospitality now so kindly extended by the Grand Priory of England.

Sir Charles Cameron, Bart. (Great Chancellor of Ireland): Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, I have been asked by the Knights who have come from Ireland to say to this Grand Priory that they feel more than compensated this day for having braved the horrors of the Channel passage to come here, (laughter), they feel that the benefits they will have derived from you here today have more than repaid them for any discomforts they may have sustained on the journey. We thank you heartily for the truly knightly reception, of which we shall ever entertain a grateful recollection, as well as of the many kind expressions which have fallen from your Grand Master. We are a poor country, we come here poorly clad—(laughter)—but on looking around these walls and magnificence of your appointments, there comes to our minds that question of that three millions per year which you are said in England to have been taking from us, and we wonder how much of it has gone in these magnificent decorations. (Laughter). But, apart from these pleasures, we know that there is such a warm feeling of friendship towards us, that it is with no envious feelings that we admire all that we have seen in this Great Priory to-day. We congratulate you on your prosperity, and we hope that we have your sympathy with the poorer brethren of this Sister Isle.

"The Great Marshal announced that V.E. Knight the Hon. Alen de Tatton Egerton, K.C.T., was in attendance and desired to perform homage on his appointment as Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire. The M.E. and Supreme Grand Master directed that he should be admitted.

"The V.E. Provincial Prior for Cheshire entered, attended by his Banner Bearer and Sword Bearer, and was conducted to the foot of the Throne. After the M.E. and Supreme Grand Master had accepted his homage, he was conducted to his stall and proclaimed and saluted according to ancient custom."

We clip the following from the minutes of a subsequent meeting :

"The Grand Master : I have now to move 'that Great Priory do present a loyal and respectful address to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen to humbly congratulate her in arriving at the 60th anniversary of her reign.' Her Majesty is the patron of our Order, and we should all desire to express our gratitude that she has been spared so long a time to rule over this country, and our hopes that she may be spared yet for many years to rule over us in the admirable manner she has done in

the past. I will, brethren, read to you the address which has been drawn up and which I will ask you to adopt. It is as follows:

*"To Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Patron of the United Orders of the Temple and Hospital.*

"MADAM—May it please your Majesty.

"We, the Grand Master and Knights of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and Hospital in England and Wales, in Great Priory assembled, beg to respectfully offer to your Majesty the assurance of our heartfelt loyalty and devotion, and our humble and sincere congratulations on the termination of the 60th year of your Majesty's glorious and benignant reign.

"It is with the deepest sense of gratitude to the Almighty that we have ventured to address you, and we humbly hope that it may be His will that your Majesty may long be spared to rule over your loyal and devoted people.

"Sir Knights, I do not think it is necessary for me to add any words to that address. Her Majesty is the Patron of our Order, the only Order in Masonry of any sort or kind of which she is the Patron, and I am sure you would wish to send a loyal address on this occasion. If you approve the address, which I have now read, I will ask you to receive it with acclamation, and authorize me to send it forward.

"The motion was carried with acclamation and amid great cheering."

We wonder whether the starving millions of India are disposed to endorse the above when they reflect that a hundred million of dollars were wasted in the celebration of this event, that would have saved thousands of lives and untold sorrow and suffering. It is amusing to read those ebullitions of joy at the prolonging of the administration of a ruler who is such in name only. However, it is none of our business, although some people, our "Second Blessing" brethren, for instance, can get happy and shout on very little capital.

There is no report on Correspondence. We suggest the appointment of one and that they be required to perform the duty.

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#### GEORGIA—1897.

The 36th Annual was held in the city of Rome, May 12th. The session was preceded by an eloquent address of welcome from Sir Nat. Harris, of the local Commandery, in which he stated, incidentally, that Rome is just eighteen inches further from hell than any of the other large cities of Georgia, and this fact made the selection of Rome peculiarly appropriate. However, when a man gets within a foot and a half of Sheol it is about time for him to call a halt, to "turn to God and live." We learn also, from this address, that the irrepressible Sam Jones is a member of Rome Commandery. Speaking of Rev. Sir Samuel, we never heard him *preach* but have heard him lecture—once. As a lecturer he is at the top. As a preacher, while we cannot admire his style as set forth in his published sermons, we have no word of opposition or harsh criticism for him. No doubt he has done much good in the world, nor is there a doubt but that his call and authority to preach come from God, nor that He owns and blesses his ambassador and his message "If this thing is

not of God it will come to naught." If God's hand is in it it has the right-of-way and all hell can't stop it.

Sir Roland B. Hall, on behalf of the Grand Commandery, made a short but pleasant response.

There were present at the opening : Sir Wm. H. Fleming, Grand Commander ; Sir Samuel P. Hamilton, Grand Recorder ; all the staff except the Grand Prelate ; 6 Past Grand Commanders ; 10 Past Eminent Commanders ; 23 Grand Representatives and delegates from 10 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is a very short but well written epitome of his administration. Being a member of Congress and President McKinley having called that body together in extraordinary session for the purpose of starting the celebrated "wave of prosperity" so glibly promised by Republicans and traitorous Democratic gold-bug campaign orators, of course Bro. Fleming had to assist in saving the country by going to Washington and being "sot" down on by Speaker Reed, even if Templary in Georgia went to the devil, hence a short address was to be expected. His dispensations were for legitimate purposes. Several of them being in the direction of religious services. He made several decisions, among them that suspension of a Templar by his Lodge for non-payment of dues does not necessarily deprive him of any rights and benefits in the Templar Order, in which we do not concur. Suspension for the cause named is just as much a bar to Masonic intercourse between the culprit and his brethren of the Blue Lodge as though he had been suspended for a felony; and as Blue Lodge Masons are the material out of which Templars are made, it strikes us that the intercourse between members of the Commandery would be rather strained, when a part of them were suspended Masons. Here is another : Companion A. applies to Commandery B. for the Orders and is rejected, by one ball, it *then* transpires that A. does not reside in the Jurisdiction of Commandery B. but in that of C. Grand Commander decides the rejection by B. to be void and C. receives his petition, elects and makes him a Templar. This looks fair on the surface, but still there is something, indefinable, about it that we do not like. However, the Grand Body approved both decisions and we pass.

The Deputy Grand Commander made a short report, in which we find nothing of general interest. Other of the Grand Officers made reports as inspection officers, from which we learn that the Order is in a healthy state in that bailiwick.

The proceedings were void of general interest.

Finances in good shape—719 members—a gain of 27.

Our good Brother Roland B. Hall is again the author of the Correspondence Report, which covers 108 pages and digests the doings of 43 Templar legislatures, in his usual pleasant, interesting and courteous style. Mississippi for 1896 being of the elect. Bro. Hall gets up a valuable report, but it is almost entirely made up of clippings, very little original matter appearing. The fact that the selections are judicious

and of the best does not excuse our friend for hiding his light under a hogshead. Bro. Hall devotes two pages to our pamphlet. He quotes Bro. Jenkins' remarks anent Templars signing liquor petitions and says they "savor somewhat of intolerance and border upon fanaticism." He then observes that the report of the Special Committee, on the above, is conservative and on the right line. We would like to say to our brother that the entire committee is of the firm belief that no man prepared for death, i. e., no Christian man, and no man who is fit for membership in our Order, *ever did or ever will* sign a whisky petition. If that is fanatical, make the most of it. God has said that no drunkard shall inherit eternal life, and the inference is just that no one who aids in making drunkards can pass the Pearly Gates of God's city. If they got in there while in a mind to sign whisky petitions and heard the inhabitants of that blessed country praising God, they would make an immediate break for hell. *The society would not be congenial.*

Bro. Hall has some pleasant words for your committee, which are fully appreciated. We copy his conclusion in full:

Again our labors as Correspondent for the year are concluded. With the increase of Templar Grand Bodies the work of a reviewer of their proceedings also increases. We mention this, not in a spirit of complaint, but in a measure as an apology for the length of our report and for the many glaring imperfections we feel it contains.

As usual, we have endeavored to confine our report to a review of transactions, steering clear of controversy. But where occasion seemed to justify it, we have not hesitated to criticise. This has been done always in a spirit of kindness and with no intention to wound the feelings of those whose acts called it forth.

Another mile-stone, which counts the passage of another year in life's journey, has been passed. For us it bears the number 57. With the knowledge that but a few more are ahead of us, we have no desire to make any man our enemy. We rather court the friendship and love of our fellow beings. With profound gratitude to the Grand Commander of Heaven and Earth for the many blessings vouchsafed us, and a prayer for long, prosperous and happy lives to our many Templar friends, we close this, our ninth report on Correspondence.

Sir Chas. M. Wiley is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Sam P. Hamilton, Grand Recorder; Sir Roland B. Hall, Reporter.

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#### INDIANA—1897.

The Forty-Third Annual Conclave was held in the city of Anderson, April 21. There were present: R. E. Mayfield F. Durbin, Grand Commander; E. Sir Wm. H. Smythe, Grand Recorder, the entire staff, 13 Past Grand Commanders, over 50 Past Commanders, 28 Grand Representatives, and the Representatives of 37 Chartered Commanderies and delegates from two U. D.

The performance opened with an eloquent address of welcome by the Mayor, responded to by Past Grand Commander Ruckle, in behalf of the Grand Body, after which the Grand Commandery was opened in ample form. Then came an address of welcome from Anderson Commandery,



responded to by another Past Grand Commander, all of which being finished the R. V. E. delivered his address which is a short but well written resume of his administration. He reports the year as being an exceptionally peaceful and prosperous one. He pays appropriate tribute to the memory and worth of the magnanimous dead, both of his own and sister Commands. He issued dispensations for three new Commanderies. Also one to Frankfort 29 to make a pilgrimage to Charleston, Ill., gravely concluding thusly: "The Commandery having the necessary permission to *invade a foreign jurisdiction!*" (italics ours.) Aside from this tomfoolery his dispensations were all right.

He thinks it would be beneficial to the Order to make Grand Representatives out of Past Commanders instead of Past Grand Commanders.

We are disposed to the opinion that it makes but little difference one way or another in the matter of benefit to the Order.

His decisions are not of general interest. His visitations were not extensive.

We clip the following for the information of Fred and others of our brethren who do not worship at the shrine of the Grand Encampment:

There has been brought to my attention by our Grand Recorder a circular letter, signed by the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, covering a resolution passed by the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, relating to a change in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, restricting or lessening its governing control over State Grand Commanderies. It having come into my possession only two days since, I have not had time to give the matter that consideration it perhaps is entitled to, but my first impressions are against its adoption. I believe that all higher bodies should control their subordinates in all matters pertaining to the welfare of that for which they are established. It is in my opinion, the only way in which harmony of laws, rules and regulations may be had. If left to each Grand Commandery to enact laws governing their subordinates, without the guide and harmony of the Grand Encampment, which is supposed to look after all the States with an unselfish, unbiased interest, then we might expect as much confusion as we had when we had no uniformity in our rituals. To leave the Grand Encampment with its powers so restricted would so take from it, that it would be better to dispense with it altogether. We might just as well say to our Subordinate Commanderies, make your by-laws to suit yourselves, and we will only say you shall be uniform in the matter of dress, and the rank of your officers shall be such as we dictate, so that you may not have officers outranking those of the Grand Commandery. The Grand Encampment is simply what the State Grand Bodies make it. It does not exist in or of itself, but by reason of the disposition of those who attend it as representatives, newly chosen largely for each Conclave.

As a defense for the usurpations and general cussedness of the G. E. the above is up to the general average, but does not in fact amount to shucks.

The proceedings were local in interest. The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$5,392.05, which is right healthy.

The Grand Recorder reports a total membership of 3,526, a gain of 33.

More than half the pamphlet, 123 pages, is taken up with the report on Correspondence by Past Grand Commander Ruckle, in which the

transactions of 44 Templar legislatures are considered, Mississippi for 1896 among the rest. His review of our proceedings is short and made up of clippings entirely. We copy his report in regard to this committee for the sole purpose of showing you that in attempting to disprove our charge that he had taken unwarranted liberties with the truth, he convicts himself. Kindly note that he said we "*quoted all the good notices he gets.*" But here is his effort :

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

The Mississippi Correspondent says: "Brother Ruckle closes his review or clipping from our report with the following, of which he ought to be ashamed, because it is not true, and he knew it when he wrote it:

"We regret to note that, in spite of his assertive independence, *he quotes all the good notices he gets.*" (Italics ours)."

Let us see:

Referring to the Proceedings of Mississippi for 1895, page 36, we find under Alabama an extract which he introduces, "we thank our good brother for the following:":

On page 36, California, he refers to the fact, Sir Knight Davies, "says some flattering words about this scribe, which we appreciate."

On page 44, Georgia, refers to personal notice.

On page 47, Illinois, quotes notice of his report from Gen. John C. Smith, of Illinois.

On page 56, Kentucky, he copies Woodruff "anent his remarks on our (his) report."

On page 60, Montana, he quotes Hedges' reference to his report.

On page 63, Maine, he quotes Berry's personal allusion to his report.

On page 65, Maryland, he refers to Gorgas' allusion to himself.

On page 76, New York, he notes that "he honors your Committee on Correspondence with pleasant notice."

On page 80, New Hampshire, referring to Wait, he says: "His attention to our report is fraternal and pleasant."

On page 87, Ohio, he introduces a quotation from Carson, with the words: "His notice of our report is very pleasant. We clip:":

On page 93, Ohio, he again quotes from Carson, introducing it with the words: "He closes a pleasant notice of our report as follows:":

On page 94, Oregon, he quotes from Hudson's notice of his report.

On page 99, Tennessee, he quotes Foster's reference to his report.

On page 102, Vermont, he quotes from Haskin's in reference to his review.

On page 111, West Virginia, he quotes Long's reference to his report.

We will only add that the probabilities are that if our astute brother has the ability to and would incorporate into his reports a little original matter worthy of consideration, it is possible that even he might get a word of praise occasionally. Should such an event occur we are perfectly willing for him to quote it in full.

□ As we have already given our Hoosier brethren more than their share of space, we pass on.

R. E. Jno. E. Redmond is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Foreign Correspondence Committee continued.

#### INDIAN TERRITORY—1896.

A pamphlet of less than 20 pages contains the proceedings of the Sec-

ond Annual Conclave of this young sister Council, at Muskegee, August 10, at which there were present R. E. Sir Robert W. Hill, Grand Commander, Sir Leo. E. Bennett, Grand Recorder, all the staff except five, and representatives of three subordinate Commanderies.

The R. E. opens an eloquent and interesting address as follows :

For the second time it is our high privilege to assemble in annual Conclave. In so young a body as this, the annual gathering is the one important event of the year. All too swiftly fly the days, for it seems but a few weeks since we were gathered in this Asylum for the purpose of organization, and yet months have rolled away, and the time fixed for the Conclave is here. Our first duty is to render thanks to the God of all grace for permitting so many of us to be present. He has not forgotten us, neither has his loving kindness failed, for throughout the year we have been remembered in much mercy. As Christian soldiers, we lift up our eyes to Heaven and ascribe praises to our Redeemer for whatever of blessing the year has brought us "

Just and affectionate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the Knightly dead. Our brethren mourn the loss of their Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir Patterson, who died the 10th of March, 1896. Peace to his ashes.

He made no decisions and granted no dispensations.

The proceedings are local entirely. Total membership, 123. A portrait of Grand Commander Hill makes an elegant frontispiece to the pamphlet. He has a pleasant, kindly face and is "good looking."

There is no report on Correspondence. We note with pleasure, however, that Past Grand Commander Hill is chairman of that committee, and we shall expect a good report this year.

R. E. Jas. E. Humphrey is Grand Commander and Grand Recorder as before.

#### IOWA—1897.

The 34th Annual was held at Templar Park, Spirit Lake, July 13 to 16. There were present R. E. Sir T. R. Ercanbrack, Grand Commander; Sir Alf Wingate, Grand Recorder; 9 Past Grand Commanders; Representatives from 38 out of the 56 Subordinate Commanderies, large list of Past Commanders and Grand Representatives of 20 States.

The address of Grand Commander is a characteristic Iowa paper, i. e., it is a good one. The old gentleman opens thusly :

Sir Knights, for the seventh time we find ourselves assembled in our chosen home, situated on the shore of this most beautiful lake, and at an elevation the nearest the heavens that our state can afford. Of the twenty-seven Annual Conclaves of this Grand Body held in cities, seven have been held in Des Moines, three in Marshalltown, four in Davenport, one in Clinton, one in Council Bluffs, two in Oskaloosa, three in Dubuque, one in Keokuk, one in Waterloo, two in Cedar rapids, and one in Fort Dodge. These have all been pleasant assemblies. None of the thirty-three State Templar assemblies have been the scene of undue excitement or of dissension. Peace has been our pursuit, and harmony has been the glad fruition of all our deliberations.

The past year has been an American quadrennium. The campaign of 1896 was intensely exciting, but was conducted with the utmost seriousness and decorum. The candidates for the highest positions were gentlemen of character and culture. Opposing candidates vied with each

other in dignified deportment and generous bearing. Never was there a quadrennial contest in this country so devoid of prejudice or passion. Doubtless this desirable state of affairs in our land is attained largely by the spirit of fraternity that is constantly being inculcated by civic orders, so widely and so firmly established in this country. It is a pleasant thought on this occasion that a member of our Order is now conducting the military and civic affairs of the United States according to its valiant and magnanimous principles.

The word quiet is the best description of Templar events in our own Jurisdiction during the past year. A spirit of loyal obedience pervades in our Commanderies. No serious complaints are made of oppression in office or of invasion of territory.

We beg to dissent from the proposition that our own and other civic Orders had anything to do with the refreshingly clean campaign of 1896. The secret lies in the fact that both candidates were Christian gentlemen, that neither of them was or had been an adulterer, fornicator, burglar, highwayman, pickpocket or anything of that sort. Had this not been true, all the civic orders, churches and godliness in Christendom would not have saved us from the usual concomitants of dirt and billingsgate incident to presidential elections.

Eloquent and just tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the Knightly dead. Our brethren of Iowa mourn the demise of their Grand Sentinel, E. C. Sir Theodore Schreiner, who from the organization of the Grand Body in 1864 up to his death filled that responsible office to his own credit and the evident satisfaction of his brethren. Peace to his ashes. (An elegant portrait of Bro. S., as well as of Grand Commander Ercanbrack adorn the pamphlet. There is something extremely pleasant in the features of each.)

He says of the progress of Templary in Iowa :

From all quarters we hear that the present political and financial affairs of our country are not conducive to the prosperity of social institutions. Doubtless this is true. Nevertheless, our order is increasing in numbers and influence in proportion to the general advancement of the state. During the year 1896, in forty-nine of our fifty-six Commanderies, two hundred and thirty-nine Knights Templar were created, and our increase of membership was three hundred and twenty-one. Our losses were two hundred and thirty-one, leaving a net gain of ninety. On December 31st, 1896, the Iowa Templar host was four thousand four hundred and thirty-four. All Commanderies have made annual returns, and our revenues are increased in proportion to our numbers. All of our institutions are undergoing a severe trial. We are confident that Christian Templary will stand the severest test.

His dispensations were not numerous and were all for sensible purposes, of course. They know the law so well up there that he made no decisions at all. A happy state of affairs in a constituency of over 4000 ! He issued a dispensation for a new Commandery at Fairfield.

He says of "Templar Park :"

No better proof of the growing affection of our Sir Knights for Templar Park could be desired than was manifested last year. On account of the long-continued dry weather, and perhaps other causes, some of the shade trees on Templar Point withered and died. A subscription was circulated by that enterprising Trustee, E. Olin Soule, to provide a new supply of trees. A large number of trees have been planted, under the

shade of which we trust that many generations of oncoming Iowa Templars will rejoice, together with their wives and children.

The idea of a Templar Home is peculiar to the Grand Commandery of Iowa. Our reputation is involved in it. We cannot afford to abandon it. Happily, there is visible no disposition to do so. Let us cherish Templar Park, and make it the poet Thompson's ideal—

"Home is the resort  
Of love, of joy, of peace, and plenty, where,  
Supporting and supported, polished friends  
And dear relations mingle into bliss."

We always try to be content with such things as we have, but we have great difficulty in avoiding the fracture of the command—"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's," whenever we take up the Iowa pamphlet and read of the delights of "Templar Park." Perhaps the day may come when we will have something similar, and then we will not be tempted to covet our neighbor's.

In his conclusion he claims for Iowa the seventh place in relative strength and that in proportion to population she is the peer of the best.

The address, though an excellent paper, is exceptionally short for this Jurisdiction. Happily our Brother Ercanbrack, unlike some preachers we wot of, has sense enough to say Amen when he gets through.

The proceedings were mostly local. The Treasurer reported receipts of \$5273 and a balance on hand of \$801.

The order of exercises was very similar to that of last year. Several of the Grand Representatives made short speeches, conveying the courteous and Knightly greetings of their several States, but our man was not in evidence "along there."

A resolution was adopted providing for the payment of four cents a mile one way, to one representative from each Subordinate Commandery. As it is now they pay the Grand Officers and allow the representatives to pay their own expenses—which is the antepodes of our plan.

The appropriations for current year amount to over \$3,000, and among the items we find, Grand Recorder's salary, \$600, his office rent \$150, contingent expenses \$200; Grand Commander \$100; Foreign Correspondence \$100; printing proceedings \$600. They either print an immense number of copies or they pay a high price for the work.

Correspondence covers 76 pages, digests the minutes of 42 Templar Legislatures, including ours for 1897, and is, as usual, the work of our good Brother Alphabet Coxe. Like its predecessors it is an able and exhaustive work, fully up to the standard of the best.

We clip a part of his "Opening Chorus," and would take it all, but it is too long :

Your "outlook committee" present their report on correspondence, reviewing the Proceedings of the Templar bodies which have been received up to date. We regret the non-appearance of two as we write these words, and can but hope that they will arrive in time to bring up the rear. Inasmuch as these jurisdictions held their Grand Conclaves the second week in May, they are not greatly laggards; but we shall harken for the ringing of our door-bell.

Some of our fraters have doubted the wisdom of these reports on correspondence. The plea of economy is potent with some. "To what purpose is all this waste?" We may not wisely forget who first asked this question, and may be pardoned if we shrink from his company. There are values higher than can be measured by either silver or gold. Life, love, honor, intelligence—these are not staples of barter, nor to be determined by yard-stick or ledger. The man of large sympathies is the man of broad intelligence. The widest outlook is from the top of the loftiest towers. "Masonry is a progressive science"—is it so? Then Masons should be progressive men, in close touch with to-day and with open vision for tomorrow. Reports on correspondence have their place and value; they are indispensable to the alert and would-be intelligent man. That our fraters may know the estimate placed on them by one every way qualified to judge, we reproduce (by permission) the following letter from Past Grand Master McCurdy, bearing date of September 29, 1896:

*"My Dear Frater Coxe:*

"I've just finished reading the proceedings of your Grand Commandery for 1896, and, also, your able and interesting report on Fraternal Correspondence, and thank you for your many kind words which you gave me, and for your kindly criticisms. Your report is a model one, dealing with the questions of the day and expressing *your opinion*. This is what I admire in a reviewer—not long extracts, telling what some one else says, and then not giving an opinion.

"While I was Grand Master I did my very best to keep our Order before the Christian world, and hold our banners high and aloof, and now my labors for the Order are for my fraters to judge of, and I am ever pleased when I see my efforts so fraternally treated as you have done.

"I have a very warm place in my heart for the dear fraters of Iowa, and wish one and all God speed.

"With assurance of highest and best wishes for your happiness and prosperity, I am ever your

BROTHER HUGH."

Our good Bro. Hugh McCurdy seldom speaks without saying something sensible, and the above letter is characteristic.

"Outlook Committee" is a new one on us, and we must say does not commend itself to our good judgment. It is not so good as "Fraternal Correspondence Committee," although the word "correspondence" seems to us to be not the exact thing in the place it occupies. The usually accepted meaning of the word is an exchange of letters between two or more persons and upon such subjects as may be on the tapis, while the duty of these committees is neither to write letters or receive them, hence the word can justly be called a misnomer.

After writing the above I am not so sure that Bro. Alphabet's "Outlook" is not the correct word, "long lost, now found, not in a cellar but in the giant mind of its discoverer."

Bro. Coxe's attention to our pamphlet is full and fraternal. We clip the following :

In the evening of the first day the Grand Commandery repaired to the Methodist church, where the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir John A. B. Jones, conducted the offices of devotion, and preached an excellent sermon from Heb. 13:16. At the close of the service a collection was taken up for the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum, \$55.00 being received therefor. The Grand Treasurer plead guilty to having \$369.02 of Grand Commandery funds on hand. This was at least twenty-four hours before closing the Conclave.

Our good Bro. Alphabet (J. A. B.) Jones "nearly always, sometimes" preaches good sermons. They are simply the Gospel in its purity. We also copy his entire review of our last effort :

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir E. G. DeLap submitted his seventeenth annual report, in which he reviewed the proceedings of thirty-nine jurisdictions. His ninety-six pages are as invigorating as a gulf breeze. He has the courage of his convictions, and such supreme loyalty to conscience as makes him a Knight of the Chevalier Bayard sort. We delight in his company, and are refreshed by his discourse. He has an unsettled account with Arkansas for his designation of their excellent correspondent, who has recently migrated to California. That migration may save Frater DeLap's bacon; but we are not sure. "Sir Fred. J. H. Reckon," he styles him: printer's mistake? Who wrote the copy? We "reckon" that the Mississippi correspondent is in for it, and will have to face the music to the dotting of an i. For he transforms Davies, of California, into "Davis," and hence the Golden Gate may join hands with the Arkansas forces to exact retribution.

Iowa receives courteous notice in four and a half pages. He observes that but thirty-two of our fifty-six Commanderies were represented, and says:

"This is a surprise indeed, and the query is natural and pertinent: Where are the other twenty-four? and what was the matter with them? If we had such a place for conclaves as do our Iowa brethren, we would all go—rank and file—male and female, and have a good time."

Perhaps; and again perhaps not. Passes are not over-abundant this way, Frater DeLap, and July is a warm month for walking.

"The Grand Commander's address, like all the literary productions of Iowa Templars, is an excellent paper." Several clippings are made therefrom, and General Order No. 4 is reproduced in full. He also reproduces the tribute to the memory of Mrs. Peddie, as "something decidedly out of the usual rut, although entirely proper, very beautiful and pathetic."

The picture of this correspondent puzzles him.

"Our clerical brother looks like he might be a wide-awake sort of a fellow, but it is impossible for us to determine, from the picture, to what church he belongs. He does not look meek enough for a Methodist, is too wide-awake for a Baptist, hardly pompeous enough for an Episcopalian, hence we class him as a Presbyterian. He gets up a good report, and doubtless preaches good sermons."

In 1893 our good frater guessed as to the correct interpretation of the initials of our name; he then missed it by only three. He is now entitled to three more guesses on his present surmise as to our affiliations. Not that we demand any apology, however; if the Presbyterians can stand it we can!

"We regret the absence of Mississippi from this admirable report, but we know the fault was not with him. It would be a blessing if our pamphlet did not take so long to print."

This sentence from Bro. DeLap may be read in connection with our first paragraph this year.

We are pleased to find a picture of "Giles Mumford Hillyer, Grand Commander of Knights Templar, 1859," accompanied by a sketch. We hope that this may prove the *avant courier* of the entire series of Past Grand Commanders.

We beg to assure Bro. Coxé that if both Davies (we wrote it "Davies") and Reckon—that is the way copy read—feel disposed to pile on to this

aggregation, at once, let them come! We repeat—without repetition, let em cum!! They will soon get tired.

We are enclined to think that our people would get to such a spot as you have, if they had to crawl.

Bro. Coxé closes his excellent report with the following, which was written by our beloved and translated Wheeler, of Connecticut.

“THE TEMPLAR’S ROLL-CALL.

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“Sir Knights, fall in! ’Tis His command  
To join the warfare heart and hand.  
To wield the sword in sure defense  
His gracious love to recompense;  
Fall in!  
Go scatter seed in favored soil,  
And lend thy earnest, honest toil,  
The dread insidious foe to foil;  
Fall in, Sir Knights, fall in!

“Sir Knights, fall in! On every hand  
The victims of the Tempter stand.  
Go labor while it yet is day  
And speed thy work. Without delay  
Fall in!  
Thy trusty swords wield high and wide,  
Before the fall of eventide,  
For men in darkness, at thy side;  
Fall in, Sir Knights, fall in!

“Sir Knights, fall in! The fatherless,  
The widow in her deep distress,  
Need thy protecting, valiant arm,  
To lift from sorrow, shield from harm:  
Fall in!  
One cup of healing oil and wine,  
One tribute laid on mercy’s shrine,  
Will glow as beauteous gems divine;  
Fall in, Sir Knights, fall in!

“Sir Knights, fall in! Immanuel’s call,  
Before the evening shadows fall  
Bids thee fall in: thy work to prove  
By deeds of mercy and of love;  
Fall in!  
From Calvary’s hill He leads the way  
To an immortal endless day—  
To light, and life, and victory;  
Fall in, Sir Knights, fall in!

Sir F. H. Loring is Grand Commander: Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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ILLINOIS—1897.

The 41st Annual was held in the city of Chicago, October 26th. There were in attendance, R. E. Sir Edward Coleman Pace, Grand Comman-



der; R.: E.: Sir Gilbert W. Barnard, Grand Recorder; all the other Grand Officers except the Senior Warden, 23 Past Grand Commanders, 36 Grand Representatives, about as many Past Commanders and the representatives of 60 Subordinate Commanderies. The Grand Commander's address is a business paper, creditable to its author and worthy of the Imperial Jurisdiction to which it belongs. He opens in this wise:

*Sir Knights and Fraters:*

I greet you and welcome you to this, the forty-first Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Illinois. In "looking backward" over the year now drawing to a close, we are forcibly reminded of God's blessings and benefits, for which we should be devoutly thankful. Let us, then, "come into His presence with thanksgiving" and implore His divine benediction on our present deliberations. What have we done in the past year to benefit our fellowmen or to inculcate the divine principles we profess? Too often our personal interests dominate our actions, and the little good we are able to do is left undone. We live on from year to year; we build our castles, airy nothings without foundations: they topple and fall: we leave them in their ruins and build others that have no better fate, and yet live constantly in hope of realizing our selfish desires.

"Build thee more stately mansions, oh! my soul,  
As the swift seasons roll.

Leave thy low-vaulted roof.

Build mansions high whose domes shall reach the sky,  
With sure foundations on the rock of truth."

We regret the propensity of our Illinois brethren to use the word *frater* instead of brother, and *fraters* instead of brethren. However, as it is none of our business there is no kick due us. Appropriate mention is made of the magnanimous dead. Among others the venerable Past Grand Commander Jerome R. Gorin, who was Grand Commander in 1869 and whose portrait adorns the title page. A Father in Israel.

We clip the following as being out of the usual course but commendable for all that:

MRS. CHARLES G. MAC.

Our sympathies and condolence are extended to our dear Frater, R.: E.: Sir Charles G. Mac, on account of the irreparable loss he has suffered in the death of his amiable and beloved companion.

Mrs. Mary Helen Mac died at her home in the city of Mattoon from apoplexy. Notwithstanding the fact that she had been for a considerable time a sufferer and in an enfeebled condition, her immediate departure was not anticipated, hence the shock fell with crushing effect on her relations and friends. Mrs. Mac possessed a high order of intellect, which had been cultivated and improved by constant association with able minds and communion with the most advanced authors. She was a prominent member of the Home Culture Club of her city, where she exerted a strong influence on the intellectual features of the organization. A glowing tribute to her memory is furnished by this organization. She loved to commune with nature, and through nature up to nature's God. Her character was spotless, her charities unbounded, and her faith in the future supreme.

Rest, gentle spirit, rest,  
Thy labors o'er,  
Safe with the good and blest  
Forevermore.

cluded therefrom. This is the case in a commandery where the conversation often does turn upon lodge and chapter matters from which the non-affiliate of those bodies should be and is properly excluded to the very great embarrassment of all present.

Make the membership continuous and you cement the bodies more closely in an indissoluble union and remove all objections of the Master Mason to the higher degrees.

Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment legislation is getting too far apart now, and it becomes the duty of every Templar to see that they are upon the same level of perpetual brotherhood and for the best interests of all who belong to this ancient fraternity of Freemasonry.

The second question, though to the front now because of the friction it often, too often, creates, is that of *perpetual jurisdiction*. It is a minor question, however, to what that of *continuous membership* will become before many years.

We cannot do better than repeat what we said last year on this subject.

*The claim over a rejected candidate is indefensible.*

Does a carpenter claim a stick of timber he has refused of his lumber merchant? Does an operative mason lay claim to a stone which he has never taken from the quarry and which he has even refused to have turned over in its native bed? Or does a girl have perpetual claim for alimony from a rejected suitor? The idea of a perpetual claim upon anything not paid for, and rejected when presented, is too absurd for any reasonable person to present, and the sooner that law is stricken from the code the better.

The third question is what to do with the non-affiliate?

This is the all-prevailing question in our grand bodies and is made the theme of address by Grand Master, Grand High Priest, and Grand Commander. It is the pretext for all kinds of legislation in these several bodies, the interests of which are so closely interwoven that what is discussed in the one is sure to find a following in the other. How important, then, that the laws of one grand body should be upon the same lines and in the same spirit of fraternity as those of the other. That the non-affiliate shall not be allowed to visit the body, or be permitted to take part in any of the ceremonies or processions or receive Masonic or knightly burial, are a few of the disabilities he is to labor under, and but for the fact that fine and imprisonment have no place in our jurisprudence, they too would be added. We fail to see the necessity for all this legislation. The brother came into our fraternity of his "own free will and accord:" then why not let him go out as freely and as cheerfully?

It is not every member who can interest himself in Freemasonry as many of the readers of these pages do. It is not possible, neither is it desirable, that all members should devote as much of their time to these orders as a few of the fraters do. Then why not let each go quietly his way? A few drop out of membership by reason of lack of interest, the many because of other duties, but from whatever cause they go out, they are friends of the fraternity and if not pursued with penalties, remain such. When these brethren were made you received their fees, while they remained with us you had their counsel, and thus were benefitted. Now, in the good name of our fraternity, let them depart and with our blessing. Let them go as though they had dimitted, as though they never had been of us. Just say so in so many words that voluntary or involuntary dimission for one year severs the member's connection with his Masonic body and all those upon which that membership rests, as does suspension or expulsion from the lodge.

The remaining question relative to the payment of yearly dues is so closely connected with the non-affiliate as to penalties that the two might almost be treated as one. To be excluded from lodge, chapter, and com-

the Law Committee, who reported Mississippi back to the Body without action, claiming that there was, or is, no question of law involved, and thus they are dead, in so far as Illinois is concerned. Tennessee was informed that in the opinion of the committee, no action is necessary, nor would it amount to anything.

We do not suppose that any discourtesy was intended, but still we are inclined to think that a few pleasant words as a preface to the refusal to concur would be more in consonance with the chivalric character of the Order. However, we can stand it.

Our old and irrepressible friend, Past Grand Commander Parvin of Iowa, put in an appearance, was heartily welcomed and made an excellent little speech.

Gen. John Corson Smith is again the author of the Correspondence report, which is an interesting and instructive paper. The author has been off on another jaunt, the incidents of which with some elegant illustrations are included in the report under the title of "My Winter in the Tropics," which are both entertaining and good reading. Bro. Smith's opening chorus covers a half dozen pages, but as it treats of sundry matters of general interest and which have been pretty thoroughly discussed, we shall copy them in full for your edification if not conviction of the correctness of his position.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### *To the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of Illinois :*

In submitting my ninth annual report on correspondence, I desire to call the attention of the members of this Grand Commandery, and hope it may meet the eyes of others, to the fact that at the coming triennial Conclave of Grand Encampment, 1898, a new code of laws will be submitted for consideration and approval.

There are three, perhaps four, important questions which may and should be submitted at that time, receive careful consideration, and become the permanent law of Grand Encampment in any new code adopted.

The first, though not now so considered, which is of growing importance and far reaching in effect is that of *continuous membership in lodge and chapter*.

To become a member of the Commandery it is now required that the companion shall have regularly received the degrees of Entered Apprentice to Royal Arch inclusive, and shall not have been suspended or expelled from lodge or chapter. Now, why not require that the companion be a member of lodge and chapter to become a member of the commandery and that to continue such membership he must be in membership in lodge and chapter? It is no argument to say the companion does not desire membership in so many bodies or having become a Knight Templar that he cannot afford to pay dues in more than one body. If that be true, then let him dimitt from chapter and commandery and hold membership in that body, the lodge, where he will have full membership, where he can do the most good and receive the greatest benefit of the brotherhood.

If it be said that the Sir Knight prefers the commandery to the lodge or chapter, then we say that he does not understand the first principles of Knighthood, which are exalted companionship and equality among members. Gentlemen do not seek membership in a society where, if the conversation turn upon matters relating to other subjects, they would be ex-

He issued one dispensation renewing a defunct Commandery. His other dispensations were few and for wise purposes. He visited and inspected quite a number of his Subordinate Commanderies, had a good time with each and, no doubt, did good to the cause.

We copy the following, because there is lots of good, sound, barnyard sense in it :

#### SOME EVILS.

The custom of soliciting Masons to apply for the Orders of Knighthood, sometimes before they have taken the Third degree, and then rushing them through the Chapters, in order to get into the Commandery in the shortest possible time, is an evil greatly to be deprecated. It lowers the dignity of Knighthood and degrades the Templar Orders. It is grossly unjust to Capitular Masonry ; and equally so to the unfortunate victim of that zeal without knowledge, which hurries him through the whole system of Masonry—with no opportunity to learn its mysteries, or see its beauty, and with no end in view but the poor gratification of wearing a Templar charm dangling at his watch chain. It is a violation of the Ancient Landmark, which requires the postulant to come of his own free will and accord.

Between neighboring Commanderies, in place of that generous spirit of courtesy, fragrant with the dew of Paradise, which alone should characterize the intercourse of Knights Templar, it awakens the demon of jealousy, the fiercest Fiend that Hell has sent to plague humanity. Every gracious and noble impulse is consumed in the fire of his rage ; and envy, hatred and malice usurp the throne of love ; and discord and dissension take the place of peace and harmony, involving in wretchedness every one who entertains this visitor from Hell in the secret chamber of his heart. Can anything be more adverse to the spirit of Templar Masons ?

It does not, in our opinion, lower the dignity of Knighthood, so much as it is an outrage upon the Blue Lodge and Chapter. Nor is it as likely to breed jealousy as is the obliteration of jurisdictional lines, which enables the strong Commanderies to steal material that should go to the weaker, because the one nearest the home of the applicant. Further along he deprecates this state of affairs, in all of which he is eminently correct.

Our distinguished Brother is, evidently, a preacher of the everlasting gospel of the most eloquent sort, or ought to be, if he is not, as the following gems of thought, sense and language, abundantly demonstrate :

In the furious rush of this covetous age let us pause by the roadside of humanity when Good Friday casts athwart our way the shadow of the cross. Let the symbol our faith unfold to us its tender, mighty meanings ; the almighty force of self-surrender of unselfish love, obedient unto death ; drawing all men unto Him who was lifted up, and bidding us be blessed in blessing others ; to find our life in losing it : our happiness in suffering for His sake : and peace, perpetual peace, in obedience unto death.

"We live in 'stirring' and not untroubled times." We have seen and still may see vast changes in the constitution of society. "Here's the world half blind with intellectual light, half brutalized with civilization." Many a battle of God is being won and lost, in the silent, subtle conflicts between contending spirits of evil and of good, which dominate by turns the thought of this strenuous age. We have seen imperious science, puffed up with pride, intent by searching, to find out God, seek-

ing the living among the dead, and saying to the world "What is He but the Universe, what but a vast and formless Fate"—"a fearful uniformity of laws"—a stream of tendency flowing through the Ages—whatever that may mean.

We have seen "the Holy Scriptures wounded in the house of their friends." Learned professors, priests and preachers subjecting them to the scrutiny of modern materialism, and substituting their so-called higher criticism for the loving humility and faith of the Children of God, until His Holy word, instead of revealing to us our Heavenly Father, becomes a stumbling block to bar our way to Him. An evil heart of unbelief seeks to dethrone the Bible from its rightful dominion in human thought. It may succeed; but nothing in the universe can eliminate from human life the fact that Jesus lives—Emmanuel—God with us; and that the mighty "tide of that one universal and eternal life still pulsates in the heart of man;" and while we commemorate the sublime events of that marvelous life in simplicity and, truth, undimmed by dogma, and unobscured by systems of Theology, we may be doing much to defend the faith once delivered to the Saints.

Certain it is if we abide in Him and He in us we shall preserve the inner sanctities of life; we shall be what we profess to be, servants of truth and soldiers of the cross. Pure in heart, as He is pure. Brave in the sight of His fortitude, meek in the sight of His humility. Forgiving and forbearing one another in love, bearing one another's burden, even as he bore our sins upon the cross; then, all greed, and falsity, and covetousness and faithlessness, and all uncleanness of heart, in us shall be "conquered by that sign;" and men will see in us the Incarnate word working in us to do His will, and they will know that it is the Babe of Bethlehem that consecrates the innocence of childhood with the halo of his own Divinity—that it is the son of Mary who throws around all woman-kind the glory of *Her* motherhood; that *His* presence in the family, at Nazareth, has made all human love Divine, and given to the Atmosphere of Home the fragrance of the Paradise of God. *His* death, *His* glorious resurrection and ascension, that which opens the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

If our witness to these great facts be true and proved true, in our lives, then the Order of Knighthood may become for the divided hosts of Christendom a common ground of Union, and all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life, and the world may yet believe that God, who, in times past and in divers manners, hath spoken to us by the mouth of His holy prophets, hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son.

He has a pleasant word of commendation for our good Bro. Woodruff, their Correspondent, which no doubt was gratifying to that distinguished writer. As a whole, the address is first-class. as becomes the state of lovely women, brave men, blooded horses and Blue Grass.

The proceedings were local. Bro. Woodruff being absent at the bedside of a sick daughter, a dispatch of regret at his absence and of sympathy with him was sent and to which he replied as follows: "The kind sympathy of Grand Commandery is very grateful and comforting. My daughter is doing admirably. CHAS. R. WOODRUFF."

The proceedings are devoid of general interest. The Order is fairly prosperous. Total membership 2020, a gain of 89.

The correspondence is the work, as usual, of Past Grand Commander Woodruff, covers 118 pages, reviews the pamphlets of most of the Tem-

plar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1896 among the rest. An elegant picture of the author makes an admirable frontispiece to the report. Our Brother must be near 80 (he was Grand Commander in 1866), but he doesn't look it. Bro. Woodruff gets up an excellent report, of course; he always does, but is too chary of comment. His notice of Mississippi is short but fraternal. It was *not* the fault of this committee that Kentucky escaped its notice in '96. We regret it but are not in fault.

Under Montana we find this :

The address shows indications that the R. V. E. had rather an unsatisfactory year, between private business, general depression and its consequences, financial demands and deficiencies, and irregularities of procedure among some of the Subordinate Commanderies. Much of the correspondence included in the address had better been left in his letter-box, and the case to be dealt with simply stated with his decision.

Had you been acquainted with the object of the above remarks, Sir Knight Hedges, you would likely have modified the language in which they are expressed, as Sir Knight Stone is not a man to be "sassèd" except at a long range. He spent a term of years at the University of Heidelberg and brought home very many tokens of his proficiency in acquiring the high position of the second best swordsman of his Corps. Furthermore, he had the great good luck to ride the political land-slide of a year ago into the office of State Auditor.

He is just the man for you to persuade to take charge of your expedition against the "Turk," whenever you get it ready, and to bring with him all the Colonels and Majors that you can possibly need.

The barbarous conduct of the "unspeakable Turk" continues to excite the just and virtuous indignation and protest of Sir Knight Hedges, and he has much encouragement in his "war of words."

Bro. Charles, don't attempt to frighten Cornelius with a one-horse State Auditor ! He is no doubt built that way. Besides he has probably perfected himself in the use of the sword in order to properly decapitate the "unspeakable Turk."

Under West Virginia we find the following :

In the liberal space devoted to the report on Correspondence he quotes our paragraph suggesting that the Chapter should be removed as a stepping-stone to the Commandery, and that the ritual of the latter should be freed from all allusions to Masonry, and exclaims : "If this is not conoclastic, what is it ?"

It is by no means a new suggestion, whatever else it may be.

The Scottish Rite bodies, with more wisdom in this than the Templars, have always taken their material fresh from the Blue Lodge, and are none the worse off for it in any way. There is nothing whatever to be gained in the Chapter to add to the qualifications of a Master Mason for the Knightly Orders.

A moment's reflection will show the gross impropriety of the use of any of the esotery of the Lodge outside of its tiled precincts, and the same applies with equal force to the Chapter work. The underlying principles of both Lodge and Chapter, while not exactly at variance with those of the Commandery, are to a certain extent inconsistent therewith, to say the least.

To do away with the much strained and exceedingly vague "intimate connection" between the Knightly Orders and the Masonic Degrees would have the greatly needed effect of more firmly cementing its membership, in enlarging the authority of the Commandery, and in providing

a reasonable protection to such of its members as may have been unjustly or unfairly disciplined in the Lodge.

We would have the Templar to be "always a Mason," of course, but we would desire to have the right of the Commandery to retain its own members somewhat less restricted than under present existent conditions.

In which we do not concur by a large majority. We had supposed that our Brother Woodruff is not of the class who suppose that you can remove the foundation of a building and that the superstructure would remain intact, suspended in the air, as it were. The respectability and prestige of Templary is largely owing to its connection with Masonry, and when the Order cuts loose from the lower degrees, *so called*, it will not take long for it to descend to and below the level of other societies which call their members "Knights."

Sir Eugene Algernon Robinson is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### KANSAS—1897.

The Twenty-Eighth Annual was held at Junction City, May 11. Present: R. E. W. C. Holmes, Grand Commander; Sir Andrew M. Callahan, Grand Recorder, all the staff, 7 Past Grand Commanders, 62 Past Commanders, 18 Grand Representatives and delegates from 37 out of 44 chartered Commanderies.

The address is a short but admirable paper. We clip from his opening:

*Sir Knights:*

Another year is numbered with the past since last we met in Grand Conclave. What it has written is written for all time; no human power can alter its annals or change its records. There is no turning back of the hands on the dial plate of time, no erasures on the written scroll of our history. What we have done or left undone is recorded on that which is more enduring than marble, more indestructible than brass. It is written on character, on spirit, on time's ever unfolding page. "You may do so," said an attendant to Peter the Great, "but your history will tell of it." This reminder arrested the hand that would have struck the blow.

The year is gone, and we would not dwell so much on its loss, as upon its records of our acts as Knights Templar. And of the possible "three score years and ten" which may be ours, we cannot be unmindful that each year is one less to be used in this mortal body. For while we believe in the "immortality of the soul," we have the demonstration of the "mortality" of the body. Death is as sure as birth. To the Christian Knight this is no disheartening, somber and ghastly thought. They who fight well, die victors over every foe; and "the last enemy to be destroyed is death." This gives us inspiration, for while each year we miss a knightly form and chivalrous heart, the missing time is the short time. "In Jerusalem the golden." there is a temple whose Builder and Maker is God. There the Knights of the Cross assemble in everlasting conclave. In looking back we read the lessons of life: in looking forward we are drinking from Hope's clear fountain. In both we will learn to

"Keep the lamp of chivalry  
Alight in hearts of gold."

He pays just tribute to the memory and merit of the lamented Bassett. He instituted two new Commanderies.

We also copy this:

We live in a state whose population is fluctuating. It is greater or less with conditions. Favorable, the population increases; unfavorable, the population decreases. Last year there was business and financial depression. More: There was fought one of the most bitterly contested political battles in the history of political campaigns, Altogether, the year was unfavorable to any expense which was not urged by necessity. Unrest and uncertainty paralyzed the nerves of confidence, and, whether one believed in the benefits of gold or of silver, he felt the poverty of "hard times." This, in a measure, accounts for the decrease in our membership during the past year. We report thirteen less names than one year ago. Of course this is not many, when our membership runs up into the thousands; still, it is a decrease of thirteen. And, must I say it, in a measure, to do so is humiliating, but the fact is, eighty were suspended. And another fact is equally apparent—all of these suspensions were for the trifle of yearly dues.

Too much petticoat in politics, Bro. Holmes! That is what ails the child.

His decisions were sound. His dispensations practical. He refused two dispensations, one of them to parade on "Decoration Day," which was wise and proper. A fine portrait of the R. E. makes a pleasant frontispiece for the pamphlet. If he ever did a mean thing, nature has disguised her handwriting on his face.

Proceedings were of a routine and local character. Treasury contains a balance of \$3,273.05. Total membership 3,234, a loss of 13.

Correspondence is the finished work of Grand Recorder Callaham. It covers 179 pages and is an exceptionally able and interesting report. Forty-three Templar Grands pass in review, among the rest Mississippi for 1896 gets her full quota of courteous attention.

Under Arkansas we find this:

The Report on Correspondence is by Sir Fred. J. H. Rickon, and as usual is an excellent review of thirty-six Grand Commanderies. In his review of the District of Columbia he quotes the exceptional portion of their petitions for the Orders: "That the following be added to all petitions for the Orders: 'He is not engaged in any manner in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors,'" and says: "The principle of the above is good, but we think it would be better if left off the petition, and simply made a rule that none such were to be admitted." We think they are right in adding it to their petitions. It is now where it cannot be omitted nor forgotten.

We concur in Bro. Callaham's view of the matter.

Under Georgia we find these:

Under Iowa, he notices the report of the Committee on Necrology, in which beautiful tribute is paid the deceased wife of a valiant frater, and the son of the Grand Commander, and says: "While disclaiming any intention of seeking to detract from the beautiful tributes paid their memories, we are forced to ask our fraters if this is in accord with the traditions and usages of the Order. This precedent, if followed, is apt to lead to grave complications." All our Masonic life, we have wondered why resolutions of sympathy were extended to the family and friends of a deceased brother, and yet when any of his loved ones crosses the Dark



Valley, the Masonic bodies offer no words of consolation to him. A few individual members—personal friends—attend the funeral, and offer consolation in their way as best they can, but the organized body goes on its way as if no great sorrow had befallen a brother. We are much pleased to see the action of the Grand Commandery of Iowa in this matter.

We agree entirely with Bro. Callaham. The custom he has been pondering over during his Masonic career is very similar to that other custom that waits until after death to use words of commendation and appreciation which, if said when they *should* have been said, would have lightened heavy hearts and brightened the pathway of life. We have already expressed our approval of the action of Iowa and hope the custom may become general. Whether it is in accord with the traditions and usages of the Order, or not, makes no sort of difference. It certainly accords with the principles of the Christian religion, which are eminently sympathetic.—“Rejoice with those that do rejoice and weep with those that weep.”

Under Indiana and Rucker's report we find :

Under North Carolina, he quotes what Frater Chase says of Christmas : “Observe the day by all means, but health and prosperity can just as well be expressed in a draught of water, and with far less danger to some weak and struggling brother. Let the observance be relegated to the past if it cannot be maintained without the use of wine.” And says : “We think the struggling brother ought to be eliminated, and not have an opportunity to partake of the Christmas or any other libation.” We hope Bro. Ruckle did not mean what he said.

We have no doubt Bro. Ruckle *did* mean just what he said.

Bro. Callaham's attention to Mississippi for '96 is fraternal and voluminous. He clips from the sermon, the address, the Grand Recorder's report, and ours. He says of a certain part of Bro. Jenkins' address that “a man who would make that kind of talk in this country would be strongly suspected of being a real estate agent.” Bro. Jenkins is a banker, Bro. Callaham—not a real estate agent.

We also clip this :

Under the head of “Dispensations,” he granted fourteen to ballot in less than statutory time. We quote one for you. It is a new one on us : “On April 14th, granted dispensation to Delta Commandery, Greenville, Miss., to hold a stated Conclave at an irregular time, and to receive and ballot on application of Comp. A. Y. Scott.” A Grand Commander can grant a dispensation to do certain acts at a special conclave, but we do not believe he has the power to authorize a Commandery to hold a “stated conclave” at any other time than that designated in its By-Laws.

We are inclined to think you are right, Bro. Callaham, but we are not always as particular in observing the letter of the law as we are in conforming to its spirit in this neck of the woods.

Touching one item in our report and in regard to our bump of combativeness, he says :

Beg pardon for this story of which we are reminded by this combative propensity of the brother. In the library of our Lodge room, while waiting the regular hour to open Lodge, a number of brethren were gathered. Bro. H., an unusually homely man, came in all wreathed in smiles and was asked what specially pleased him. He said, “I give up the jack-knife to-day ; I have carried it for fifteen years hunting a home-

lier man than I am. I saw J. this afternoon; he has shaved off his whiskers. I know I am most mighty homely, but I'll be jiggered if I ever had any one try to hire my face to fight a dog with."

The story is a good one, but we can't exactly see how it fits the text. There are a multitude of other good things in this most excellent review which we would like to copy, but time and limited space forbids. Thirty-five pages of the report is devoted to what he calls "Topical Department" and is made up of excerpts from different correspondence reports and other sources on nearly every question that has had attention in Templary. An excellent conceit, we think.

He closes as follows :

And now our delightful visit among our fraters, from Maine to California, from the Northern lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, has been completed.

We have endeavored to portray the doings of the Templar world, and hope we have interested you in our labors. The doings of the various Grand Commanderies have been of so much interest it has been hard to find a stopping place when reviewing them.

We have again gathered under topical subjects many of the gems of our fellow-correspondents and others. We greatly appreciate the expressions of approval accorded us by our fraters at home and from the Guild.

The withering hand of our financial depression and calamity howl, has shown its depressing effects upon our membership this year. Notwithstanding a loss in numbers, in other ways we have made a decided advance.

Since our last annual, our Masonic Home has been established, and to-day we are furnishing a comfortable home to twenty-five of those to whom we are under obligation.

Sir Hill C. Chaffee is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir A. M. Callahan, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

#### LOUISIANA—1897.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Conclave was held in the city of New Orleans, February 12th. Present, Sir Robert Strong as R. E. Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Richard Lambert, Grand Recorder; 12 Past Grand Commanders. Several other Past Grand Officers and Past Commanders; 14 Grand Representatives and delegates from four Subordinate Commanderies.

Grand Recorder read the following dispatch from the Grand Commander :

"SHREVEPORT, February 12, 1897.

"*Richard Lambert, Masonic Temple :*

"Regret my inability to be with you today. Please express same to Grand Commandery, and read my address.

M. L. SCOVELL."

The address is short and local in its references. He writes that the Order has not been fairly prosperous during the year, in the Pelican State. He reports a loss of six from membership a year ago. He is unable to account for the lack of interest in Templar Masonry throughout

the State, and in this he has lots of company. No one can account for it, but the fact remains, not only in regard to Louisiana, but to all the Southern States south of Kentucky and Missouri. Sorry, but it can't be denied. He thinks dispensing with the thirty days lay over for petitions, wrong and refused to grant them, which, of course, we *do not* endorse. Treating a Royal Arch Mason who is well known to all, or a majority of the members of a Commandery exactly as the Blue Lodge treats a profane is the essence of stupidity, in our opinion.

The minutes are routine and entirely local. Total receipts \$208.50. Balance in Treasury \$323.42. Members 322.

Correspondence covers eight pages and is the production of Past Grand Master Fellows, is topical in its construction and doesn't amount to much. We are very much afraid that its distinguished author does not feel interest in his work commensurate with its importance.

We copy a part of his opening :

Your Committee on Correspondence have reviewed the proceedings of the various Grand Commanderies which have been received and herewith submit their report. They append hereto a list of the proceedings which have been received, the date of their reception and at what time the Grand Conclaves were held ; also the names and postoffice address of the Grand Commanders, Grand Recorders and Chairmen of Committees on Correspondence ; with the statistical tables of the work within the several Grand Jurisdictions. As said last year, these tables, with the notice of the death of Grand and Past Grand Commanders, which follow, constitute more than half of what is usually found in reports on correspondence and that our reports, though apparently meagre, may, in much less space, embody all that is of real importance.

For the purpose of denying the correctness of the proposition contained in the last paragraph, if it is correct, there are some forty odd bodies of fools who pay a large sum of money, in the aggregate, for what is of little value.

Sir Robt. Strong is R.'. E.'. Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MINNESOTA—1897.

The 32nd Annual was held in the city of Minneapolis, June 24th. There were present : Sir Jno. H. Randall, R.'. E.'. Grand Commander ; R.'. E.'. Thos. Montgomery, Grand Recorder ; all but two of the staff ; 11 Past Grand Commanders ; 5 minor Past Grand Officers ; a big lot of Past Eminent Commanders ; a lot of Grand Representatives and delegates from 22 of the 25 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address covers twelve pages, is a business paper, and well written. He opens as follows :

SIR KNIGHTS—The work to be done and the duties to be performed in this, the thirty-second Annual Conclave of our Grand Commandery are now before us. Gratefully should we return to the great All-Father our humble thanks for the many blessings vouchsafed to us during the year now gone. It has not been all joy and gladness. There has been suffi-

cient of the sorrow and care incident to human life to remind us that we are still of the "earth earthy," and are not yet divine.

Appropriate mention is then made of the fraternal dead and the tribute of a tear paid to their memory. He made no decisions. His dispensations were few and all for proper purposes, including those to ballot on candidates without delay, notwithstanding his regret that this concession should be asked by the Subordinate Commanderies. It is perfectly proper for them to ask whenever they feel disposed and it is unwise and over-righteous for a Grand Commander to refuse. The Subordinate Commandery knows all about the case and is the best and safest judge of whether to hurry a candidate through or make him wait the statutory time. In a vast majority of cases the Grand Commander knows absolutely nothing about the case, hence, is not in a condition to decide, except by assuming that a Commandery, in its collective capacity, is as competent to and as certainly will consult the best interest of the Order as would a Grand Commander. His personal inspection included every Commandery in the state, save two, and was, we doubt not, of great practical benefit to the Order in that Jurisdiction. His report on this subject shows great and quite general prosperity and a healthy growth. He closes as follows :

The year for which I was elected to serve you in the highest office within your gift is now closing, and the emblem of authority with which you so highly honored me will soon adorn the breast of my successor. For him I can ask no greater boon than that he may have officers as faithful and courteous, at all times and under all circumstances, as mine have been. More faithful and willing helpers, no man can ask, no man can have. They will all, in the fullness of time be justly entitled to reap the reward that awaits the valiant Templar. To the members of this Grand Commandery I wish to express my grateful appreciation of the many favors and courtesies shown me. The last Templar year has been so full of kind, cordial greeting and words of encouragement and cheer, that I shall, in the days to come, always look upon it as one filled only with pleasant memories.

The pamphlet is adorned with an excellent picture of Grand Commander Randall. I say "adorned" because that is the proper word. Grand Recorder Thos. Montgomery's phiz also occupies a page and we would have said it "adorned" the pamphlet too if he had not accused us of being slangy and "sich !" As the case now stands he is ugly as a mud fence, staked and ridged with bull frogs !

Proceedings are local. The finances are in a healthy state, over \$2000 in the treasury. Total membership 2448, a gain of 37.

We also find the following in the minutes :

Sir Knight Chas. H. Mix, as Representative of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, read a circular letter issued by said Grand Commandery, dated April 13, 1897, reciting their action relative to the organic law of the Grand Encampment, favoring an emasculation of the powers of same to correspond with the present powers of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and asked that the proposition be duly considered by this Grand Body.

On motion of the Grand Recorder, the matter was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

Which committee recommended that "no action be taken at this time" on the matter. A polite snub in the intent of an unswerving loyalty to the Central Incubus.

The "Correspondence" is the work of Past Grand Commander, Thomas Montgomery, and is immediately preceded by a portrait or picture of that distinguished Templar as noted above. We perceive what we presume to be a G. A. R. button on his coat, which reminds us of the fact that our "Second Blessing," brethren consider it the correct thing for them on all occasions and under all conditions to proclaim the fact that they are sanctified, perfectly holy and only lacking a pair of wings—and they sprouted—to make them angels. This is as appropriate as it is for soldiers of the late war, Union and Confederate, to perpetuate the remembrance of fratricidal strife and a family fuss, by parading these emblems on all, or any, occasions. It will not surprise us if Bro. Montgomery gives us fits, accuses us of being slangy, "disloyal" and lots of other crimes for writing the above, but we can't help that. "Great is truth," etc.

Bro. Montgomery's attention to Mississippi for 1896, is full and fraternal except as to the instance named above. He quotes largely from Bro. Jenkins' address and our report, but without endorsement. After reading our fulminations, all through, he is kind enough to observe:

After reading to a finish this unique report we rather like it after all, although at the start we felt almost shocked at his plainness of speech. His heart no doubt is in the right place. Here is a parting shot at Wisconsin:

This is the first time our reports have been called "unique," and are glad our brother did not say lunicky. We are his debtor for kindly expressions of regret for our affliction. Having carefully re-examined his picture we are constrained to say that it is the counterfeit presentment of an exceptionally handsome, elderly Christian gentleman, whom we have highly esteemed for several years and who, we feel sure, will take no exceptions to our jocular remarks in the earlier stages of this review.

Our brother gets up an elegant report, but too often lets us remain in the dark in reference to his own views on subjects talked about.

Sir Benj. Farmer is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent, Past Grand Commander Thos. Montgomery.

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#### MISSOURI—1897.

The Thirty-Sixth Annual was held in the city of St. Louis, April 20. There were present: R. E. Sir Ira V. McMillan, Grand Commander, Past Grand Commander W. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder, the entire staff, 15 Past Grand Commanders, 27 Past Eminent Commanders, 31 Grand Representatives, not including ours, and delegates from 54 of the 56 chartered Commanderies in the State.

The address of Grand Commander is a good one, covers 21 pages and

contains a complete epitome of a successful administration. We clip from his opening :

*Sir Knights :*

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Missouri, now in session, will soon have ended, rounding out that many years of our noble Order in this Grand Jurisdiction ; years of peace, years of plenty, years of sorrow and strife, years of contentment and happiness, years that have placed thousands and thousands of honored names on our rolls—years that have added many pages deeply embordered in the emblems of the departed, gallant Sir Knights whose manly deeds, Christian acts, and knightly conduct are deeply engraved on our hearts—years that have brought no bitter strife or animosities within the portals of our sacred Asylum—differences there may have been, but they are only such as caused earnest, deeply impressed, honest, intelligent men, seeking the truth, right and justice, to present and sturdily maintain.

"Emblems" is a new word to this Committee, and we are at a loss to know whether Bro. McMillan coined it, which he had a right to do, or where he found it. Four pages all devoted to the dead of his own and sister jurisdictions—a long list.

He issued a multitude of dispensations, but all for practical purposes. Among those refused was one allowing a Commandery to act upon the petition of an army officer, who being per force a Cosmopolite, has no home or fixed abode. He, however, recommended an additional section to the statutes making a provision for this class of applicants and also those of the Navy as well. All of which was referred to the Law Committee, which made no report, that we can find. The suggestion *should* have been adopted at once. He made quite a number of decisions, all of which strike us as being correct, but the Law Committee thought otherwise in two important cases. The ordinary Law Committee seems to take delight in setting down on the decisions of Grand Commanders, and they sometimes discover a mare's nest when no mare has been in the neighborhood. We speak advisedly along here and to prove our case have only to revert to the Law Committee of Grand Lodge in 1888, headed by our beloved brother and Sir Knight Kimbrough, and the established record of our Fred, who never fails to find fault with the decisions of Grand Masters and Grand Commanders, as he passes upon them at each recurring session of the Grand Bodies. It is regrettable that this desire shows a tendency to spread.

A portrait of the R. E. forms an elegant frontispiece to the pamphlet. The face is a good one to look at and pleasant to behold, and if its owner is not worthy of the most perfect trust and confidence, then the Creator does not write a legible hand.

The proceedings are mostly local. Grand Treasurer reports a balance in hand of \$4,982.83. From Grand Recorder's report we learn that the Grand Commander is allowed \$250, Committee on Foreign Correspondence \$200, Grand Recorder \$1,000 and Grand Treasurer \$100, salary, which strikes us as being liberal and as being highly commendable. A picture of the Masonic Home adorns the minutes. It is a comfortable, home-like looking structure and is an imperishable honor and glory to

Masonry in Missouri. We append Secretary's report, which you will find interesting reading :

SECRETARY'S REPORT FROM OCTOBER 1ST, 1896, TO APRIL 1ST, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

|                                                         |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| From Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., of Missouri .....       | \$14,555 50 |
| John W. Owen, St. Louis.....                            | 20 00       |
| Knights Templar of St. Louis, Christmas Service.....    | 30 00       |
| Crusade Commandery, No. 23, K. T. of Mexico.....        | 8 35        |
| Sale of two pigs.....                                   | 28 35       |
| Sale of old Furnace.....                                | 25 00       |
| Grand Chapter R. A. M. of Missouri, for Sanitarium F'd. | 500 00      |
|                                                         | <hr/>       |
|                                                         | \$15,167 20 |

Which I have paid to the Grand Treasurer and hold his receipt for same.

|                                                                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Treasurer has collected and receipted to me for interest and premium on Bonds ..... | \$ 1,490 00 |
| Treasurer received from sale of Bonds.....                                          | 10,000 00   |
| Treasurer had on hand at last report.....                                           | 14,918 54   |
|                                                                                     | <hr/>       |
|                                                                                     | \$41,575 74 |

EXPENDITURES.

|                                               |             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Groceries, Meats and Vegetables.....          | \$ 2,257 69 |
| Dry Goods, Clothing and Shoes.....            | 755 67      |
| School Supplies and Sundries for Inmates..... | 269 49      |
| Fuel, Light and Ice.....                      | 987 28      |
| Medicine and Denistry.....                    | 219 66      |
| Hired Help.....                               | 908 25      |
| Laundry.....                                  | 260 68      |
| Printing and Postage.....                     | 57 49       |
| Superintendent and Matron's Salaries.....     | 750 00      |
| Secretary's Salary.....                       | 300 00      |
| Funeral Expenses.....                         | 11 30       |
| Directors.....                                | 100 75      |
|                                               | <hr/>       |
|                                               | \$ 6,878 26 |

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Building and Repairs.....   | \$ 17,986 02 |
| Taxes and Insurance .....   | 1,759 99     |
| Furniture and Crockery..... | 80 91        |
|                             | <hr/>        |
|                             | 19,826 92    |
|                             | <hr/>        |
|                             | \$26,705 18  |

RECAPITULATION.

|                                                        |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Collected by Secretary .....                           | \$15,167 20  |
| Collected by Treasurer .....                           | 11,490 00    |
| Balance in hands of Secretary, October 1st, 1896.....  | 570 46       |
| Balance in Hands of Treasurer, October 1st, 1896 ..... | 14,918 54    |
|                                                        | <hr/>        |
|                                                        | \$42,146 20  |
| Disbursements .....                                    | 26,705 18    |
|                                                        | <hr/>        |
|                                                        | \$15,441 02  |
| Balance in hands of Treasurer.....                     | \$ 15,022 74 |
| Balance in hands of Secretary .....                    | 418 28       |
| The Sanitarium Fund is now.....                        | 9,388 35     |

There are now in the Home, 50 girls, 31 boys, 9 old ladies and 8 old brothers.

The new building is nearly ready for occupancy and will be a very great convenience. The basement floor has a large sewing room, kitchen, several storage rooms, rooms for hired help and coal room. The first floor has a dining room 36 x 86 feet, two cloak rooms, office and bath room. The second floor has two large nurseries and nine dormitories. The third floor has fifteen dormitories. Each floor has suitable closets for clothing, etc., and bath rooms. The old dining room has been changed into a play and storage room.

The infirmary has been changed so as to be used exclusively for hospital purposes, with separate rooms for contagious diseases.

All the old coal houses, etc., on the north side of the property have been removed and frontage remodeled so as to present a very attractive appearance on the Von Verson avenue front. This will add to the value of the lots which we have for sale on Von Verson avenue.

We feel satisfied the Fraternity will be pleased with the improvements.

Faraternally.

JOHN R. PARSON, Secretary.

We note from the report that the items, "fuel, light, and ice" cost nearly a thousand dollars for the six months covered by the report, which in the light of the fact that three asylums in Natchez, which contain nearly twice as many inmates, do not pay near so much for these items per year for all three. Of course all this has nothing to do with our business, but we just had a passing thought that if it is going to cost \$13,000 per annum for incidental expenses of a Home for 98 men, women and children, that Bro. Barkley's Pet will approach Methusalah in longevity before it is in working order, unless Masonry revives and we get richer. We also note an item of \$100.75 paid "Directors." The "75" indicates that this was for traveling expenses and not for salaries, which makes all serene here. We note further that the great State of Missouri robs this grand charity of more than \$1000 in the way of *taxes*: of which the people of that commonwealth *should* be heartily ashamed.

We hope Bro. Mayo will forgive us for the foregoing, because we have no intention to criticise or interfere in their domestic concerns. We are trying to do something masonically commendable in the establishment of a Masonic Home and anything touching on the subject interests our people. A portrait and sketch of the late Geo. Frank Gouley forms a part of the pamphlet.

The Correspondence report is, as usual, the finished work of Grand Recorder Mayo, and is, of course, a good one. It covers 89 pages and considers the doings of most of the divisions of the Templar family, Mississippi for 1896 getting four pages, made up almost entirely of clippings from Bro. Jinkins' address, the report of the "Special Committee," Bro. Speed's resolution rescinding former action in regard to Companions living near New Orleans and Mobile getting the Orders in those two cities, and our report. Bro. Mayo is too chary of comments, which we regret. We copy his

#### CONCLUSION.

We have arrived at that interesting part of the work—the *finis* for



the twentieth time. We have paid our respects rather briefly to the forty-two Grand Jurisdictions which, with our own "Grand Old Missouri," compose the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, with the addition of the several Subordinate Commanderies holding charters direct from the said Grand Encampment.

The following table shows some very interesting facts dealing, as it does, with the calendar year 1896, and is well worthy careful study in connection with the interesting extracts from the printed proceedings contained in the one hundred pages.

The totals of table show :

|                                                                |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Grand Commanderies reviewed .....                              | 43      |
| Number of pages reviewed.....                                  | 6878    |
| Subordinate Commanderies in 43 Jurisdictions.....              | 994     |
| Subordinate Commanderies in Jurisdiction Grand Encampment..... | 19      |
| Affiliated Templars in the United States.....                  | 112,124 |

R. E. Jno. Gillies is Grand Commander : Grand Recorder and Reporter same as before.

#### MARYLAND—1896.

The 26th Annual Conclave was held in the city of Baltimore, November 24th. There were present : R. E. Sir Wm. Hy. Clark, Grand Commander ; Sir Jno. Hy. Miller, Grand Recorder : all the staff except three, 22 Grand Representatives, 12 Past Grand Commanders, a lot of Past Eminent Commanders and representatives of 12 Subordinate Commanderies. The R. E. opens an interesting and able address as follows :

*Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Maryland :*

Since our last Annual Conclave, the roll of seasons from winter to spring, and from spring to summer, and then to autumn, have come and gone, and we are again summoned to assemble to review our work of another year ; marking as it does the full rounding up of a quarter of a century, so full of all that should animate and give pleasure to the feelings of a Sir Knight, filled with admiration and zeal for the grand principles, aims and teachings of such a magnificent and noble Order.

In welcoming you to this, the 26th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Maryland, I desire to congratulate you upon the success and prosperity of this Grand Commandery during the time of its existence. Beginning with but four Commanderies, and a membership of 396, we have today, by the returns of the several Subordinate Commanderies of this Jurisdiction, 12 Commanderies and 1132 Sir Knights, all stimulated by a zeal for our beloved Order, and with a strong desire to place our own Jurisdiction second to none in carrying forward those beloved principles, which should actuate all valiant and magnanimous Sir Knights of the Order, which is renowned for its noble deeds and acts of pure beneficence. In doing this I would not be unmindful of the gratitude we owe to the Great Author of all good for the display of Fatherly goodness which He has extended to us, not only as an Order, but also individually, in permitting us again to assemble on such an auspicious occasion.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the magnanimous dead, both of his own and other Jurisdictions. His dispensations, though numerous, were all for proper purposes. He was a frequent vis-

itor to his Subordinates, many of these visits being official and for purposes of inspection. Regarding "uniform" he says :

From the report of the E. . Grand Inspector, to which I call your special attention, it appears that only about sixty per cent. of the Sir Knights of this Jurisdiction have procured the regulation uniform, which, although a fair showing, seems to me to be without excuse, as I believe that no Sir Knight can feel fully interested in our Order unless he complies with all the usages and customs of the same. Indeed, so fully persuaded am I, that I believe this lack of uniforming is to some considerable extent detrimental to the interests of Knighthood.

We beg to dissent. It often happens that the "tailor makes the man," but the *uniform* never makes the Templar. A Templar who is worthy of the name is made of different stuff from brass buttons, ostrich feathers and wool. He made no decisions. A portrait of the R. . E. . adorns the pamphlet. There is a family resemblance between him and our Bro. Frank Burkitt. Both are good men, but neither is handsome!!

The proceedings are devoid of general interest. The Order is in a healthy and growing state. Total membership 1132, a gain of 45.

Past Grand Commander F. J. S. Gorgas presented his 20th report on Correspondence, in which he considers the transactions of forty-one Templar governing bodies, in his usual courteous and interesting style. Mississippi for '95 getting her full share of attention.

While Bro. Gorgas' reports are among the best and most valuable of the lot they are the most difficult to excerpt from, for the reason that the remarks of our brother are so short and so interwoven with his synopsis of the minutes under consideration. His review of Mississippi for '96 is very full and fraternal. We clip the following :

The Thirty-sixth Annual Conclave was held in Jackson, beginning February 18th, 1896. Sir F. P. Jenkins, R. . E. . Grand Commander, presided, and eleven of the chartered Commanderies were represented. Rev. Sir Knight Irvin Miller, in the absence of the Grand Prelate, delivered a very impressive sermon before the Grand Body in the First Methodist Church, and \$27.80 was collected for the Natchez Orphan Asylum. The Grand Commander announced that harmony had prevailed among them, and that the past year had been one of great prosperity. He referred to the tide of immigration flowing towards their Sunny Southland, and extended to all who may visit them, either for profit or pleasure, a most cordial welcome.

We beg to inform our brother that Grand Prelate Lewis was the *author* of the sermon and Bro. Miller simply read it for him in his enforced absence.

For the pleasant words spoken of your Committee we are grateful. As it is possible that the pamphlet for 1897 may reach us before we go to press we will say, good bye for this time.

R. . E. . George Cook is Grand Commander. Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

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#### MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND—1897.

A Special Conclave was held in the city of Boston, April 12th, for the

purpose of conducting the funeral services of the late Grand Master and Past Grand Commander, M. E. Sir Benjamin Dean.

The services were solemn and most impressive and the tributes paid to the memory and worth of the dead commensurate with his distinguished career as a man and Mason. Peace to his memory.

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The Semi-Annual was held in the city of Providence, May 20th. The attendance was up to the average and the proceedings of a routine character. The Grand Commander's address is quite lengthy—business all the way through, and proves its author to have been the right man in the right place. He issued quite a number of dispensations, many of them for religious parades.

He made but two decisions, one of which we quote :

A Sir Knight who had been Knighted in a Sister Commandery, applied for membership in De Molay Commandery. The following month a regularly appointed committee reported favorably upon the application ; there being no objection, the name went to ballot, and was rejected by a single vote ; by request of the committee a second ballot was taken and the Eminent Commander declared the applicant elected to membership.

After the ballot a protest was made to the Recorder by one or more of the members of De Molay Commandery, against said applicant signing the by-laws, and giving the following reasons therefor :

That the Sir Knights protesting declare that when the ballot box was passed them they were unable to find any cubes and supposed they had all been thrown previous to the ballot-box reaching them. It was found upon examination of the ballot-box when the Commandery was at ease, that the cubes had been so placed in the front part of the box that the mistake could have been readily made.

My decision was that the Sir Knights making the protest had only taken advantage of their rights as Knights Templars, members of De Molay Commandery, and that the protest against the applicant signing the by-laws of De Molay Commandery is sustained.

We infer from the account, that the second ballot was "clear" but only because the "cubes" were hidden.

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Another Special Conclave was held in the town of Gardner, June 24th, for the purpose of constituting Ivanhoe Commandery, which being done, the banner of the Commandery was "consecrated" by our Rev. Bro. Hy. W. Rugg. (If you have a ritual for this, Bro. Rugg, we should be glad to see it.)

The Ninety-First Annual Conclave was held in the city of Boston, October 28. There were present : R. E. Sir Wm. R. Walker, Grand Commander ; Sir Benj. W. Rewell, Grand Recorder, a full staff, delegates from 43 Subordinate Commanderies, a long list of Past Grand Commanders, and other Past Grand Officers and Past Grand Commanders, making a very large attendance.

Four reports—the Grand Recorder's, Grand Treasurer's, Custodians of the "General Fund," and the Finance Committee, precedes the Grand Commander's address, and are all interesting.

From the report of Grand Recorder we learn that there are 120,160 Templars in the world; that the United States have 114,677 of these, leaving but 5,483 for the balance of the Globe. That six Grand Jurisdictions, those of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, have more than 50 per cent, or, 58,292 of the 114,677; and Massachusetts and Rhode Island head the procession with 12,313 members, while 21 other jurisdictions, viz: Arizona, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indian Territory, Louisiana, Montana, Mississippi, Maryland, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Washington, contain but 12,360, or only 47 more than Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Grand Commander opens a business address as follows :

Another year has passed away, and we are again assembled in Annual Conclave, and it is with unalloyed pleasure that I congratulate you upon the prosperity of our Order, and the entire harmony and good feeling prevailing through this Grand Jurisdiction.

Ninety-one years ago a little company of Knights Templars, less than twenty in number, assembled in the city of Providence, and organized this Grand Commandery. Though few in number, for often there would be present at their Annual Conclaves none but the officers, they pressed forward with fortitude, undaunted, until to-day we meet in Annual Conclave, the representatives of the largest Grand Jurisdiction in the world.

At the Annual Conclave October 26, 1887, the total membership of this Grand Commandery was 7,217. As seen by the report of your Grand Recorder, we meet to-day as the representatives of 12,313 Knights Templars. An increase of 70 per cent. in the last decade.

Truly, Sir Knights, have we not a right to look back over the intervening years, since the organization of this Grand Body, with feelings of admiration for those valiant Knights who have preceded us, and left us so rich a heritage.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the Templar dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions.

He issued a multitude of dispensations, many of them to allow such of the Subordinate Commanderies as desired to do so, make "*Pilgrimages*," "hither and yon," sometimes beyond the borders of his own bailwick, in which event it was, of course, necessary for them to have "*permission to invade*" the neighboring State with music, banners, and armed with their "trusty claymores," had to be first obtained, presumably to prevent a panic among the people on the advent of these doughty Knights of the carpet and drawing-rooms. Webster defines Pilgrimage, thusly :

"The journey of a Pilgrim. A journey to a Shrine or other sacred place. 2d. Hence any undertaking requiring time and patience : *time irksomely passed*." He also says that a Pilgrim is "one who slowly and heavily treads his way ; a wanderer, a traveler. 2d. Especially one who travels to a distance from his own country to visit a holy place, or to pay his devotion to the remains of dead saints. Permit us to inquire how the intelligence and proverbial culture of our brethren of the Empire Templar Jurisdiction of the world can reconcile such childish nonsense with the "eternal fitness of things?" Had Webster said a pilgrim is gener-

ally lousy, always dirty and a fanatical fool, he would not have passed beyond the domain of exact truth, hence for the noble Christian gentlemen of the New England States to appropriate the name even of such characters is entirely out of order and we sincerely wish they would stop it. No doubt our beloved Bro. Wait, of New Hampshire, will jump on us again because we don't let Massachusetts and Rhode Island do our thinking for us, but we "cawnt" help that.

The substance of our contention is that the term "Pilgrim" as applied to these pleasure trips is a misnomer and should be discarded. "Excursion" is a much better word, and, while lacking the chivalric(?) aroma of the other, is also more appropriate.

A portrait of the R. E. makes an admirable frontispiece to the pamphlet, and we find it difficult to reconcile the high order of intellect apparent in his face with the childishness of Templar Pilgrimages from town to town, at the close of the 19th century and the nonsensical nonsense of "permission to invade." However, Ephriam seems to be joined to his idols and we may as well subside.

The minutes show that our Fred's Grand Encampment resolutions were considered to an extent sufficient to bury them in oblivion, so far as Massachusetts and Rhode Island is concerned, by indefinite postponement. Similar action was had on the Tennessee, Maltese Cross, emblem resolutions.

In this connection it is proper for us to say that in an Order like ours popularly supposed to be chivalric and essentially courteous, such disposition of a respectful communication from sister jurisdictions, without preface or preamble to soften the edge of refusal to endorse, is lamentably deficient in the graces named, while there is an appearance of snubbing not creditable to the jurisdiction of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

We are inclined to think that had these resolutions originated in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois or Michigan, they would have received a larger measure of courteous attention. Our good Bro. Rugg, in referring to Fred's resolutions, claims that the G. E. has not exercised its power in an arbitrary manner, so as to be burdensome to the Grand Commandery or to individual Templars, hence he suggests that well enough may be let alone, forgetting that each Triennial brings with it some direct or indirect interference with the domestic economy of the subordinates.

The above is his review of Mississippi.

Our Revd. Bros. Rugg and St. John are again the progenitors of the Correspondence report, in which nearly all the Templar governing bodies, or their legislative, executive and judicial acts are courteously and ably reviewed. Bro. Rugg opens the ball with a three-page preface in which he discusses what should be considered in writing these papers, and having performed this task the two of them furnish, as usual, an admirable report.

Bro. Rugg devotes only two pages to Mississippi at Biloxi, simply

naming the principal business of the session. Styles Bro. Jones' sermon as being appropriate, and adds: "He urges the [union of faith and good works as essential to Christian living." Our Bro. Jones is of the same opinion as the old darkey who said: "Faith without works is like a beefsteak without gravy—dry and hard," and in this we concur. having reference not alone to the Christian life but to the ordinary. everyday affairs of our earthly pilgrimage. He speaks very pleasantly of our work, from which he takes some clippings. There are many good things in this report which we would be glad to copy, but the space assigned to to Massachusetts and Rhode Island is full.

Sir Walter Cutting is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MAINE—1897.

The 46th Annual was held in the city of Portland, May 6th. There were in attendance: R. E. Albro E. Chase, Grand Commander: R. E. Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder; 12 Past Grand Commanders, 3 other Past Grand Officers, a long list of Past Commanders, 31 Grand Representatives, including that noble Roman and distinguished Masonic Jurist, Bro. Drummond, for Mississippi, and delegates from 18 out of the 19 Subordinate Commanderies.

The R. E. opens his address, which is "strictly business," as follows:

Awaited with eager anticipations, the Templar year, with its unobtainable desires, with its abounding joys, and with its unexpected sorrows, has been numbered with the years already past. What may have been brought to each of us has, I trust, been borne with that patience and undaunted fortitude which is becoming to the true and valiant Knight, who, by the lessons of our sublime Order, has been taught to regard Truth as of paramount importance, and to esteem the Christian religion as the great support either in prosperity or in adversity. To each and all of you I extend a true Knightly greeting which arises because of that hearty and cordial support which has been given to me in the performance of my duties.

Appropriate mention is made of the Knightly dead, both of his own and Sister Jurisdictions. He issued quite a number of dispensations, many of them to be religious in uniform and some to make pilgrimages to neighboring points, all of which is very proper, except the word "pilgrimage," to which we demur.

We also regret that it is still considered the correct thing in Maine not to go visiting in an adjoining State without permission of His Royal Nibbs, the Grand Commander of said bailiwick. A State as intensely loyal to the general government as is Maine, and which is the home of Josiah H. Drummond, ought to know that there are no "Foreign" States in the Union, but that a citizen of California is just as much at home in Maine as he is on the shores of the Golden Horn.

If you feel disposed to do so, send a polite note to New Hampshire that

you are coming over to tea, will bring your knitting and have a chat, but *don't* ask her to let you come,—it don't look fraternal.

He made quite a number of visitations. His decisions were in accord with law and good judgment. He recommended that names of members of Subordinate Commanderies be no longer printed with the proceedings, but the Body decided against him. The address, as a whole, is an elegant paper. A portrait of its author adorns the pamphlet.

The proceedings were of a local character mostly. Our good Bro. Berry submitted the shortest report as Grand Recorder that we have ever seen,—omitting the address and doxology it makes less than three lines. Summarized it means—"I have done my work well and your committee has approved it. Yours."

Total membership 3153, a gain of 86.

The Correspondence report covers 70 pages and considers the minutes of 45 Templar governing bodies, in a brief but courteous style. It is signed by three of Maine's most eminent Templars, Berry, Drummond, and Burnham, but the first named is the guilty party. Bro. Stephen's "opening chorus" runs thusly :

We commence our twenty-second annual report down by the sea, where we can watch the waves bringing in driftwood from its long voyage ; driftwood saturated with brine and perhaps also with startling tales of ocean, which it cannot tell, except to the imagination, as it crackles and sparkles in orange and red on the hearth, for brine-saturated driftwood makes a rare open fire. So we wonder what the driftwood from the Templar Ocean will bring us that is rich and sparkling. What pleasant saying from Old Kentucky, what happy turn of anecdote from Wisconsin, what graphic story of the Orient from Illinois, what incisive thrust from Mississippi, what charming literary quotations from Iowa, what eloquent illustration from Massachusetts, what—but every bit of driftwood brings some happy thought, even when it comes from our silent friend of New Jersey, who thinks that speech only offends, for like the dumb boatman from Astoria he brings a precious freight though he speaks not of it. A hundred answers have been given to the question, what makes the sea salt, but the true answer is that every little rill brings its contribution of salt to the river, and every river to the ocean, and the ocean sends the water back in vapor to bring more, but gives it not up again. So every writer sends his contribution to our ocean and so our driftwood sparkles.

The sea cast up King Arthur and all the romance of the Round Table. Although our Knights of the Round Table are not all Launcelots, they all bring some pleasant tale of adventure to our annual gathering and so are welcome. We may say with Merlin :

"I know the Table Round, my friends of old :  
All brave, and many generous, and some chaste."

We are afraid his theory as to "what makes the sea salt," won't do, but we won't discuss the question now.

Under Georgia we find this :

He goes as far in favor of dispensations as some others do against them, as witness the following :

"But we continue to assert that the Commanderies are the best judges of the necessity of calling for a shortening of the time for ballot. A few weeks more of waiting by the candidate will scarcely ever add any further knowledge of his character, or be of any advantage to the Comman-

dery. The granting of dispensations is permitted by the Statutes, and when asked for by those most interested, and familiar with all the facts, we think it somewhat of a dictatorial usurpation in a Grand Commander to refuse, as it is a reflection upon the good faith and honor of those asking it."

Those who have been members forty years can remember the condition of affairs before the brakes were put on. Each Commandery was its own judge of emergencies, and they happened often. Placing them under the control of the Grand Commander proved just the necessary restriction. But a new generation has grown up that knew not Joseph, and they argue that dispensations are permissions to break the law, which is absurd. They are a part of the law, and emergencies have always been allowed since first a probation was required. Perhaps the most satisfactory way is to require a fee to be paid into the Charity Fund for every dispensation granted. The Grand Chapter of Maine requires such a fee, and the result is that only two per cent. of the candidates ask to have their probation shortened, and then, generally, for most satisfactory reasons.

Which strikes us as being sensible. Under Kansas, this, which is respectfully referred to Bro. Barkley :

He thinks the Iowa Templar Park is somewhat expensive, and asks :

"Where is that Grand Lodge committee which reported against a Masonic home because their poor could be cared for at less expense in some other way?"

It is a very serious question about Masonic homes. A fund of one hundred thousand dollars put into a Masonic home will only maintain from ten to twenty inmates, while the same income distributed judiciously will maintain one hundred among their kindred. In a small Jurisdiction the wider distribution is the better. In a large Jurisdiction both methods may be employed. In England there are rich old foundations which support a small number of beneficiaries and a great number of high-salaried officials. Although there is little danger of Masonic charities falling into that error, it is a tendency to be guarded against.

On the other hand a larger amount can be raised for a home than for direct charity; but that is attended with disadvantages. The pressure, especially if a tax is imposed, depletes the membership, and thus lessens the ability. We were startled to see the falling away of members when the first Grand Lodge tax of one dollar a head was laid for the support of a Masonic home. We wondered that so many should quit rather than pay one dollar a year for charity. But consideration showed that another element entered in: no doubt many had opposed that particular form of charity from the first, and when their successful opponents said "now we will see how you can help yourselves," they refused to submit to compulsion.

There are a great many other things in this excellent report that we would like to clip, but time and space are both against us.

We regret that our pamphlet failed to reach him and do not understand why it did not.

R. E. Fritz H. Twitchell is Grand Commander; Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### MONTANA—1897.

The 10th Annual Conclave was held in the city of Helena, September 13th. Present: Sir Cornelius Hodges, R. E. Grand Commander; Sir



Ed. D. Neill, Grand Recorder ; one Past Grand Commander, 6 Past Commanders and delegates from 8 Subordinate Commanderies. If there were any Grand Representatives present the Committee on Credentials made no note of the fact in their first report. Later, however, they discovered and reported the presence of ten of these ornamental, if not useful adjuncts.

The Grand Commander's address, like all his writings, is interesting in matter and elegant in diction. He opens as follows :

The return of delicious autumn days finds us again assembled in Annual Conclave to renew our vows as soldiers of the Cross ; recount our experiences of the year ; take counsel together, and equip ourselves for another year's pilgrimage and warfare. As loyal Knights of the Temple, before setting forth on a crusade we have engaged in public worship, acknowledging the Great Captain of our Salvation, under whose banner we are enlisted, and from the spiritual armory of heaven seeking supplies and equipment for the renewal of the constant warfare we here wage with "the world, the flesh, and the Devil"—foes more numerous and dangerous than the hosts of Saracens that opposed the ancient Knights of our Order in seeking to rescue the sepulchre of our Saviour from their unhallowed hands. The cross and not the sepulchre is emblazoned on the banner under which we march, and our battle song is :

"In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time ;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round his head sublime."

We believe in a risen and reigning Saviour. It was in the bloody sweat of Gethsemane and the expiring agony of the cross that redemption was wrought. The sepulchre to us has its chief interest as the place from which Christ rose as the first fruit of a resurrection to eternal life, secured to all His followers by His sacrifice and redemption. Not that we would belittle the work of the early Crusaders and the later Templars. All Palestine to us seems sacred ground, and its associations a constant source of instruction and inspiration, and we shall not cease to urge its redemption from the desecration and desolation wrought by its present occupants.

In all of which we concur, except in the proposition that "the bloody sweat of Gethsemane" and "the expiring agony of the cross" were at all necessary factors in or had anything to do with the consummation of our redemption. Adam's transgression required a divine sacrifice, i. e., a sacrifice infinite in the character of the victim and in the transcendent love and compassion that made it voluntary. In fulfillment of these requirements our Lord reluctantly left the Courts of Heaven, took upon himself the form and nature of man, lived and moved among the people as a man for thirty-three years and closed his earthly career and perfected the Plan of Salvation on the cross.

If the sufferings and death of a human being could have satisfied the demands of a violated law and redeemed the race from the effects of Adam's transgression, there would have been found plenty of men to voluntarily immolate themselves upon the altar of sacrifice for the general good. But the offense required an infinite sacrifice, and its efficacy was not affected by the measure of mental or bodily suffering of the victim, hence the assumption that the sufferings of our Lord, i. e., His humanity, had

no merit in the atonement. "I have power to lay down my life and to take it again," shows that the sacrifice was a voluntary one, and in this fact and in the character of the victim is found the saving merit of the scenes of Gethsemane and Calvary. He visited all his subordinates, had good times at each, and was, no doubt, a blessing to them in more ways than one. The visitation entailed an expense of \$100, which was paid by the Grand Body. Referring to these visitations he says:

We believe this was the first successful attempt to visit all the Commanderies of the Jurisdiction. It is questionable if this should be attempted each and every year. We are inclined to think that all the Commanderies should be visited and personally inspected at least once in three years. For one year out of three we think an effort should be made for a general meeting of all our Commanderies, a sort of Grand Encampment of our own, continuing two or three days. Few comparatively of all our Sir Knights can attend the Triennials of Grand Encampment, but when more prosperous times return we believe a great proportion of them would come to a State Encampment, and that it would be both profitable and enjoyable. We submit the subject to your consideration, not for any immediate action.

The address as a whole, is characteristically good. The author's portrait makes the frontispiece of the pamphlet. A kindly, pleasant face. Our brother has a much more venerable appearance than we expected, as we had thought of him as being on the sunny side of fifty. While he looks the picture of health and like his years might be prolonged "as many generations," yet the frosts of many winters have bleached his locks and whitened his mustache.

The proceedings were devoid of general interest. The Order is in a healthy state, in all respects. Total membership 366, a gain of 18. Grand Prelate, Rev. Jno. F. Pritchard, made a short talk, which is published in the pamphlet under the title of a "Sermon." It covers less than four pages and is without a scripture text as a basis—a *sermo sine qua non*, it seems to us, when a *sermon* is to be preached. Like a great many others he considers the church the greatest thing in the world, often losing sight of the Creator in admiration of His handiwork. Church membership never has, and never will, save a human soul, but it has resulted in the damnation of thousands who "rested in the outward law, nor knew its deep design," trusting in that same church membership, and that alone, for salvation.

We are not disposed to grumble about the brevity of the effort; on the contrary we are glad he had sense enough to quit when he got through, a virtue we gladly commend to the cultivation of lots of one-horse preachers, who never know when to stop and who multiply words without knowledge. We also find a short but eloquent and interesting speech made by our good Bro. Cornelius to his own Commandery, after participating in the Christmas toast.

We clip the opening as being exceptionally fine and appropos to the occasion:

PEACE ON EARTH GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

Nineteen centuries have passed away since the birth of our Savior was

announced by an angel to the shepherds tending their flocks by night on the hills about Bethlehem. "Suddenly," we are told by the sacred writer, after the announcement of the glad tidings, "there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Surely mortal ears never listened to a sweeter song from a grander choir. A reverberation of that song reaches our ears to-day at the suggestion of Sir Stephen Berry, our Grand Encampment Toast-master, and we, as requested by our Grand Master, have joined in the response, "May the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

We would gladly copy it all, but lack of space forbids.

He again presents the report on Correspondence which, like its predecessors from the same source, "is equalled by none and surpassed by few" in its interest, style, diction and make-up.

We copy his "opening chorus:"

It is now near March, and having finished review of Grand Lodge proceedings as far as received, we turn to those of the Grand Commandery for a change of scenes and subjects, where constitution and statutes of a general governing body take the place of shifting landmarks and diversified traditions of the elders and opinions of commentators. Grand Encampment legislation may not be in as consistent and satisfactory condition as desirable, but the law is in black and white and the interpretation of the Grand Master is final until Grand Encampment in Triennial session determines otherwise, while Templar loyalty, obedience, and courtesy are vital forces to promote harmony of opinion and action. We confess to some curiosity to feel the pulse of the Templar world after another year's revelation of the brutal and fanatical spirit of the "unspeakable Turk," whose hands are wreaking with blood of slaughtered Armenian Christians. The peace of the grave may rest over the desolated villages of the defenseless Armenians, and the attention of the world may be diverted to the more recent struggle of the Greeks in Crete and Macedonia, and the sympathies of our people monopolized by the efforts, sufferings, and sacrifices of the Cubans to shake off the oppressive rule of the Spanish Turks, but we hope the Templars will not forget Palestine and its need of deliverance. We like peace, but not the kind offered by the Turk and the Spaniard that follows exterminating cruelty.

From which it will be seen that he is as anxious for the demise of the "Sick man of Europe" and his punishment for his manifold sins and general cussedness as ever, and that he is not at all partial to the country of the late Don Quixote de la Mancha, and his equally celebrated Squire-Sancha Panza. It is useless to say that we fully concur in all he says on this line.

The report covers 82 pages, digests the minutes of most of the Templar family of "Grands," and is interesting from end to end. Our Brother devotes nearly three pages to our pamphlet for '97, and we propose to copy nearly all of it. He opens thusly:

The proceedings of the Thirty-seventh Annual Conclave, held at Biloxi, February 9th, have only reached us in the closing days of August. Sir J. M. Buchanan was Grand Commander during the year of record, and a fine looking man he is, according to pictorial representation. In his address the Right Eminent finds cause for congratulation and gratitude, but his anticipations founded upon the arbitration treaty between this country and Great Britain were rather premature. Still

the considerations that prompted the treaty are likely to continue and increase. In noticing the death of Sir Robert Brewster, Grand Recorder of Texas, after a service in that capacity of thirty-three years, he says that it leaves their own Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Power, as the oldest by continued service in the country. Brother Bowen sent congratulations on the event, and we add the hope that he may long continue to wear this honor and absorb its emoluments.

The event of the year was the organization of Coast Commandery at Biloxi, which appears on the roster this year for the first time with twenty-seven members, having Knighted eighteen during the year. The establishment of this Commandery led to the repeal of the general permission for candidates in that part of the State to apply in Mobile or New Orleans. Business in the Grand Representative line was rather brisk. The Right Eminent commended to attention the subject of headquarters at Pittsburg, and closed with a benediction. The evening of the first day was spent in devotional exercises, accompanied with an excellent discourse by the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir John A. B. Jones. He lamented the frequent failure in backing up one's faith by corresponding good works. Natchez Asylum profited by the hint to the tune of \$55. The Grand Commander of Alabama, with some of his associates, was an honored guest.

A summary of returns by Grand Recorder Power shows that thirty-six were Knighted during the year, and the total membership increased twenty-six to a total of 484. The Orphan Asylum is always in Brother Power's thoughts, and received another contribution from Grand Commandery funds, which are not superabundant. Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed, as chairman of the Law Committee, reported that no formal proceedings were needed for a Commandery U. D. to commence work. Probably this is good law and usage, but it always seemed to us that there was more need of assistance and instruction than when the Body was constituted. In most cases we believe that it is necessary for the proposed officers to demonstrate their ability to open, close, and confer degrees. At the instance of Sir Knight Speed, resolutions were adopted urging a change in the organic law of the Grand Encampment to correspond with the limited powers of the General Grand Chapter, and the Grand Representatives of Mississippi were urged to press this matter upon the attention of the several Grand Commanderies. We are committed to the reverse of this, but if something more is not done at Pittsburg than was accomplished at Boston, we shall feel much inclined to change sides.

Sir Knight James T. Harrison, of Columbus, was elected Right Eminent, a charter voted to Coast Commandery No. 19, and \$250 set aside for headquarters at Pittsburg. Natchez Asylum was not deprived of its dole, and there was a profusion of votes of thanks, showing a thankful spirit prevailing. The place of meeting will be the one selected by Grand Lodge, Water Valley. Under the title "unofficial," for which Past Grand Commander Savery assumes the responsibility, appears an item in the way of novelty that we will refer to Sir Knights DeLap and Carson. If they approve, we shall not object. It is the election of Miss Laura Patrick, of Tupelo, as Sponsor of the Commandery, and the presentation to her of an emblematic breast-pin, in the form of a sword and shield. This is in line with our Sir Knight Riley's "daughter of the regiment." There may be something come of this, as "tall oaks from little acorns grow." *Nous verrons.*

Sir Knight DeLap submits his nineteenth report on Correspondence "in words, figures, and clippings following," which run through a hundred pages of highly-seasoned and plainly spoken comment, which makes entertaining reading. Though he says of himself that his early education was neglected, evidently his later education makes full amends for

early neglect. He is a good Methodist, though somewhat addicted to dyspepsia. He is no great admirer of dress-parade devotions, Triennial displays or frequent libations, but he is with us in our crusade for the delivery of Palestine, and this we recognize as the true "strawberry mark" of a Templar. Since we began to agitate for the delivery of Palestine the Turk has filed additional evidence of his unfitness to cumber the soil of any portion of the old world or the new. He squats like a toad, poisonous and repulsive, upon the fairest, dearest, and most sacred portions of the earth, Eden, Valley of the Euphrates, Palestine, the region of the seven churches, all of Asia Minor, and some of the fairest portions of Eastern Europe and islands of the Mediterranean. We confess that the day of deliverance sometimes looks distant and doubtful. England is restrained by fear of arousing the Mohammedan population of India, Russia seems to have cut off Turkish retreat into Central Asia, and all the nations of Europe, the larger armies and more deadly weapons they have, seem more afraid of war, and a new lease of life seems to have been found by Turkey's getting into debt. The case of Cuba and the Sandwich Islands just now divert the attention of our country. Yet withal we believe the close of the century will see a change, and we hope for the better. In Brother DeLap's notice of Montana we are no little surprised at his comment of Grand Commander Neill's definition of the Christian Religion, for we believe that the two hold the same views, Trinitarian Christianity. Aside from this misunderstanding, our Proceedings receive generous treatment, and we have had many a good laugh over our Frater's pungent criticisms and plain speech that would do credit to "Truthful James." With Brother DeLap we are most emphatically and unreservedly opposed to a Grand Encampment Temple in Washington City. We would much prefer to camp out somewhere in tents and separate entirely the sessions for legislation and meetings for parade. It looks very much as if Montana would have to take her headquarters with her to Pittsburg. Monongahela will do for us, and we are tired of training in the Thirteenth Division. Here's a cold water toast to our friends down the river!

On reflection we have concluded to put it all in; it is good reading and will interest you. We do not suppose that Bro. Neill is unorthodox, but it is so easy to define the Christian Religion by saying it is a saving belief in the divinity and Godhead of our Saviour. That there is no other name given, in Heaven or among men, whereby we can be saved, and that the Dogma of the Trinity is as clearly a part of a Christian's belief as is the belief in a future state. The Apostle's Creed is good as far as it goes, but it is simply a man-made partial epitome of the dogmas of Christianity. If it was amended so as to read something like this: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, in Jesus Christ, our Lord, that He was crucified of the Holy Ghost, *who is the Third Person in the Trinity*, etc., and I believe in the Church of God, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, *The Witness of the Spirit*," and everlasting life after death.

We would suggest the language in italics as covering the balance of the ground and as being as scriptural as any other part of the creed.

No man is a "*Christian*" who denies the dogma of the *Trinity*, and per consequence, such an one is ineligible to the Orders of Christian Knighthood. If there was any unpleasant or unlovable tone in our remarks anent Grand Commander Neill's deliverance last year, we beg to withdraw it and to disclaim any intention of being harsh or unkind.

We would like to devote more space to Montana, but her quota of room is exhausted.

R. E. Wm. E. Chamberlain, is Grand Commander; Sir Edward D Neill, Gr'd Recorder; Bro. Cornelius Hedges, Correspondent. Salary \$200 and it is cheap at that.

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#### NORTH CAROLINA—1897.

The Seventeenth Annual was held in the city of Wilmington, May 11 and 12. There were in attendance: Sir Wm. A. Withers, R. E. Grand Commander, Sir Horace H. Munson, Grand Recorder, all the staff save two, six Past Grand Commanders, one Past Grand Generalissimo, fifteen Grand Representatives and delegates from nine Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is of the shortest, covering less than four pages, and while well written, is simply a local business paper in which we find nothing of general interest.

The angel of Death had called none from among the members of the Grand Commandery during the year. His dispensations were for proper purposes, although we confess our ignorance of how the "rendition of the story of the reformation for the benefit of religious and charitable organizations" could be considered a Masonic or Templar occasion, and yet these Commanderies participated on these different dates. However, we presume it is all right.

We excerpt from his "conclusion:"

In concluding this address I wish to congratulate the Order on the peace and harmony which has prevailed during the past year. Our relations with sister Grand Commanderies have been the most cordial and no reports of internal strife have reached my ears. May it ever be so.

I wish also to congratulate the Grand Commandery on the selection of its place of meeting, and to remind the Sir Knights that we are on historic ground. When our fathers left their homes in the Old World to find liberty and freedom to worship their God as their own consciences should dictate, faithful hearts brought with them the secrets and principles of freemasonry. The order has always flourished where freedom abounds and soon its altars were erected here. In this beautiful city by the sea was established the oldest Lodge in this Grand Commonwealth. St. John's No. 1 has existed for more than a century and her lessons have been impressed upon four generations. Some of her sons are with us today in the strength of manhood, ready to do battle for the cause; some are with us who most tenderly bind us to the past, while some have gone to their long home. Forty-nine years ago the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was established here, and here sixteen years and one day ago for the first time the banner of this Grand Commandery was thrown to the breeze. Our first Grand Commander is our Grand Recorder now. This distinguished Sir Knight has truly grown young in the cause, and his pen like his sword has done valiant work for the advancement of Templarism in North Carolina. Between the first and present Grand Commander the names of those who have been called to fill this high position are three times three. Of these only one—Donald W. Bain, of sainted memory—has been called to his reward.

When we leave this spot so full of glorious and happy memories we should carry with us fresh inspirations for our work.

A good picture of the R. E. makes an elegant frontispiece for the pamphlet.

The proceedings are devoid of interest to outsiders.

The "Law Committee" has this to say anent the dispensations above referred to.

The Committee are of opinion that the several dispensations granted by the Grand Commander reported in his address are correct and authorized by law except in the following: Dispensations to certain Commanderies to appear in Templar uniform "to assist in the rendition of the Story of the Reformation for the benefit of religious and charitable organizations." The Committee are of opinion that the purpose for which these dispensations were granted was not "Masonic" and therefore said dispensations should not have been granted.

Had we been on the Committee would have "passed" this case, but then you know the propensity of these Law fellows to rush right in and scalp a fellow without rhyme or reason.

Order seems to be in good shape. Total membership 349, a gain of 2. The Correspondence is the fourth effort of Bro. Jno. C. Chase, and like the other three, is a splendid paper. It covers 102 pages—near three-fourths of the pamphlet—and digests the doings of most of the Templar Grands in a courteous and pleasant style, Mississippi for 1896 getting her full measure of attention. He opens as follows:

For the fourth time we present the result of our labors as Correspondent. The proceedings reviewed are arranged in the usual alphabetical order. We have been able to muster the whole force with the exception of Indian Territory and that will be found at the foot of the column, should it pass under the wire ahead of the printer. Any further general remarks are held in reserve for a conclusion, and we take up the line of march by paying our respects to, etc.

Bro. Chase's review of our pamphlet is full and fraternal. He quotes from Bro. Jenkins' address as follows:

The Grand Commander's address is a brief but well written document. He announces that harmony has prevailed throughout the jurisdiction and that the year has been one of prosperity. He has some enthusiastic words in regard to the advantages of his State as a place to emigrate to, and assures a cordial welcome to all who may come. We quote with approval as follows:

"It is a deplorable fact that a great many have passed through our solemn ceremonies and departed from our Asylums no better men, husbands, fathers and citizens than they were before being Knighted. They are Templars simply in name; and we are weakened instead of strengthened by this class of membership. The sequence of this condition of affairs is directly traceable to the fact that we do not guard the doors of our Asylums with that circumspection that becomes true Knights."

He also quotes from Bro. Power's report and congratulates him on his recovery.

He says our effort to kick up a fuss on the "Second Blessing fad" will miss fire, so far as he is concerned, which is regretful. Anent a mistake of ours he has these observations:

He honors our Grand Recorder by quoting from his report, but fails to note that what he quotes was quoted from the writings of the lately deceased Sir Knight Robert Macoy, of New York, to whom it is applied. The result is that our Horace is lying awake nights fearing that the "Mutuals" will accuse him of plagiarism, of which he is entirely innocent.

Let Horace go to sleep and sleep the sleep of the just! No one ever suspects a North Carolinian of anything mean and especially of literary theft.

Our good Brother gets up a most excellent report, which he concludes as follows:

"Time with his ever rolling flood" has swiftly borne us toward the end of another reportorial trip and the near approach of the annual Conclave admonishes us to pull for the shore and bring our journey to a close.

As announced in our prefatory remarks, we have reviewed the proceedings of 43 Templar Grand Bodies, Arizona being for 1895 and the others for 1896, Indian Territory not having shown up.

No one can be more fully aware of the imperfections of this review than ourself, but, such as it is, it is sent forth with the hope that it will be worthy of the courteous consideration accorded its predecessors.

And now the time has come to say farewell to our brethren of the Corps of Reviewers, for whom, one and all, we entertain the kindest feelings, but

"Farewell is a lonely sound,

Which always brings a sigh,

So give us rather, when true friends part,

The good old words, good bye "

R. E. Joseph H. Blackburn is Grand Commander. Brothers Munson and Chase were retained as Grand Recorder and Correspondent, respectively.

#### NEW JERSEY—1897.

The 39th Annual Conclave was held in the city of Trenton, May 11th. There were present: V. E. Jno. E. Rowe, Deputy Grand Commander, acting as Grand Commander; Chas. Bechtel, Grand Recorder; a full staff, 17 Past Grand Commanders, 26 Grand Representatives, including ours, Bro. Godson, and the Representatives of 15 Subordinate Commanderies. We copy the opening of Acting Grand Commander's address, which accounts for his occupancy of the "East" as well as for the emblems of sorrow seen in the pamphlet:

*To the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey:*

In the shadow of a great sorrow, we have gathered today at the thirty-ninth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey. For he who was chosen to stand at the head of our noble Order and guide its affairs for the year that has just passed, no longer responds to the roll-call here, but has joined the silent majority in the great beyond, having answered the summons of the Supreme Grand Commander within a few short months after he was elevated to the proud position for which he had long labored. But, though he has passed the confines of this earthly territory, we who knew him well may in our sorrow say:

"We'll not forget thee: we who stay

To work a little longer here.

Thy name, thy faith, thy love shall lie

On memory's tablets bright and clear."



Aye! On memory's tablet it shall be, deep graven as with a pen of iron. But to the purposes of our Conclave. It is upon annual gatherings like this that we are reminded of the sentiment, if not the words, of the poet when he sings:

"Nature! great parent, whose unceasing hand  
Rolls round the seasons of the changeful year."

And as rolls the seasons round, we who have come to the close of this Templar year and stand at the threshold of an opening one, will pause a moment and glance back over its record and note whether it be of good or ill.

Those of us who were here at our last Annual Conclave will recall with vivid recollection the almost superhuman effort put forward by our departed *frater* that he might be present in our gathering and share its responsibilities; and how, after his return home those of our number more intimately associated with him noticed with what alacrity, even in his great physical weakness, he strove to fitly and promptly discharge the duties which had been laid upon him. He, therefore, without delay, set about to constitute the new Commandery, which was to bear the name and number of "Temple, No. 18," and be stationed at Metuchen. This was accomplished, by R. E. Sir Dingwell, on the evening of June 10th, 1896, with the assistance of his associate officers and in the presence of many distinguished Sir Knights of this and adjacent Jurisdictions.

His next thought was to complete arrangements for the proper observance of Field Day, as decided upon, to take place at Plainfield, and General Order No. 1, with the circular of instruction, which here follow, were early issued and promulgated throughout the Jurisdiction.

We beg to profess our profound sympathy with our brethren and the family of the deceased in their bereavement. Much space in the address is taken up with matters connected with what they call "Templar Field Day," which occasion we presume was a successful and pleasant experience. His dispensations and decisions were sensible and sound. He closes with the following tribute to the worth and memory of the deceased Grand Commander:

And now, in conclusion, let us return for a few moments to consider and dwell upon the virtues and distinguishing characteristics of our late lamented Grand Commander. From the very outset of his career as a Knight Templar, I was brought into intimate and close relationship with him. In this close intimacy and friendship, I learned to admire the sterling qualities which he possessed. He was as true and courteous Sir Knight as ever drew sword, and could I turn back the hands on the dial of time I would summon him before you, and bid him bear you a message, freighted from the rich experience of the past, that would not only energize and enthuse you for the tasks of the present, but would inspire you for the accomplishment of the work that shall be demanded of you in the cloud-curtained future. Through long years he toiled faithfully, serving the interests of this Grand Commandery in various official capacities, until, step by step, from the lowest to the highest round, he reached the summit of his ambition in official distinction; and then, just as he had assumed the prerogatives of authority, which he would have wielded with so much dignity and grace, he was relieved of duty here by the Supreme Grand Commander and assigned to the ranks of "that great army whom no man can number." As the Master of his Lodge, he was a workman who needed not to be ashamed; in his Commandery, as one of its most successful Eminent Commanders, he was an able, intelligent and impressive ritualist; and to the last, though he had almost reached his three-score-years-and-ten, up to his final illness, he always

manifested the liveliest interest in the work and general affairs of his Commandery, being ever ready to do what he could for its welfare and advancement. And now, as we leave his record in your hands, we feel that we cannot more fittingly close than to say,

"His life was gentle : and the elements  
So mixed in him that nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, 'This was a Man !'"

Proceedings are mostly local. Treasury has a balance of \$1568. A communication from the Grand Commandery of Mississippi was received and ordered filed. In other words, our Fred's resolution anent the Central Excerescence was treated with contempt, probably in consequence of the intense loyalty of the consumers of "Jersey Lightning." A portrait of Grand Commander Dingwell, deceased, makes a frontispiece to the pamphlet.

The Order is in good condition. Total membership 1779, a gain of 43. Correspondence, covering 77 pages and digesting the minutes of forty Grand Jurisdictions, is *signed* by "Peter McGill," from which we infer that he is the author, although the minutes show an allowance of \$100 to Grand Recorder Bechtel, our old friend and fellow mutual, for the work. Hence we are at a loss to know how the matter really stands. Let the author be Bro. Charles or Brother Peter the report is, as usual, a good one.

Under Michigan we find this :

He has the following to say of our reporter :

"Grand Recorder Charles Bechtel gives us another of his charming resumes of the several jurisdictions. He confines himself to quotations on the basis that scissors is mightier than the pen, and in which conclusion we also concur, as will be seen by the loot in the present report, gathered as the Israelites gathered manna. But still we like to see some individuality, and not be in the same position as the New Jersey man (not Bro. Bechtel), when at a Methodist class-meeting, the leader came around to him and asked, 'Well, Brother, what have you to say to-day?' 'Not a durned word, Elder, not a durned word; I stand pat.'"

We don't believe our venerable Recorder knows what "standing pat" is, Frater Gerow. He's above such things.

We'll bet four dollars that Bro. Charles does know what it is to stand "pat." If not, his education needs revision.

Bro. Peter's attention to Mississippi is full, fraternal and amusing. He quotes a big slice of Bro. Jenkins' address and then the report of special committee on that part of it in reference to signing whisky petitions and then wades into yours truly, in the following style :

We are at a loss to understand Frater DeLap in this matter. His views on the right of the Grand Lodge to relegate non-affiliates to the ranks of Masons not in good standing are well known. If the Grand Lodge can do this, pray, why can the Grand Lodge, Grand Commandery or Grand Encampment not place traffickers in liquor and their supporters in the same category, "not in good standing as Knights Templar?" Is the "great Masonic principle of 'liberty of conscience,' which allows every Mason to act according to the dictates of his individual conscience, and so pattern his conduct as shall be to the best interests and highest development of the community in which he may live," so different in its bearings as to compel one to affiliate or be placed in bad standing in the

one body, and yet allow him to bear the Passion Cross on his breast and dispense liquid damnation, and remain in good standing in the other? Is the trafficker in liquors, or his supporter, patterning his action or "conduct in a way to be of the best interest and highest development of the community in which he may live?" Frater DeLap never hesitates to place himself on record in his support of the Christian Religion and its handmaid, Temperance. Why should he stultify himself in this matter? Better, ten thousand times, Knights Templar who are unaffiliated Masons (obeying the dictates of their individual consciences and exercising their 'liberty of conscience'") than members of any Masonic body engaged in or supporting the damnable liquor traffic. We do not think we misread Frater DeLap in his report. We would heartily like to think we do, but cannot see it.

Our Brother has the impression that he has discovered a mare's nest, that the mare is setting and will hatch a case of inconsistency on the part of the undersigned and the Templar family in Mississippi. In order to relieve the distress our brother evidently feels, we hasten to apprise him of the fact that dispensers of liquid damnation, either directly or indirectly, in person or by proxy, cannot be made Masons in Mississippi, and if already made they have the alternative of getting out of the business entirely and at once or be *expelled* from the Order. Under these conditions we fail to see where there is any conflict between the action had at Jackson and the most advanced principles of temperance and a pure morality. The committee in making its report assumed that a member of an Order founded upon the religion of Christ and the practice of the Christian virtues would naturally consider the authorization to sell hell-broth as being equally reprehensible with the actual act of selling itself and would not stultify himself and do violence to the principles of Christian Knighthood and a pure morality by signing a whiskey petition. There is a point where legislative enactments stop short and the power of moral suasion comes in play, and that point is right along here. We are bound, in the very nature of things, to repose some measure of confidence in the Christian character and good judgment of our members, and while the entire committee is of the opinion that no Templar's name or that of a member of any Christian church has any business on a whiskey petition, we were equally unanimous in the belief that the position taken was the one best calculated to subserve the cause of temperance and morality. We can see no resemblance between the penalty for nonaffiliation in the Blue Lodge and this matter, although Bro. Peter tries to make it plain. However, the child is born and its name is "Free Moral Agency," and so we will let it rest. We are gratified for kind words spoken of our report.

The reviewer lays down his pen with a feeling of relief. It is no small task to review the reports of the various Grand Jurisdictions of the world. The work has been done in hours snatched from the regular resting time—oft the eyes have been heavy and the hand weary—yet the knowledge that the many faults would be kindly dealt with and the few merits encouraged has cheered and refreshed the worker.

But few subjects present themselves for much serious consideration, and most of these are nearly threadbare. The most vital questions are:

- 1st. Enforced affiliation in Blue Lodge and Chapter.

2d. Abolishment of Perpetual Jurisdiction.

3d. The religious belief necessary in the Order of the Temple.

As these subjects may all come up and demand consideration at the next triennial conclave, we refrain for the present from expressing our personal views. But we cannot refrain from publishing the following gem, which clearly bears on the third subject :

"Faith is a giant, serene and wise,  
With starlit brow and an angel's eyes :  
Mansions arise where his feet have trod  
On the mighty rock of the grace of God.

"Dogma, the dwarf, is a stubborn elf,  
Who hugs all tenets that please himself ;  
He only builds for this world—vast deeds—  
Frail huts on the sands of unproved creeds."

—W. H. Hayne.

R. E. Sir John E. Rowe is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Reporter continued.

#### NEBRASKA—1897.

A pamphlet, elegantly constructed, containing but 24 pages, is the minutes of the proceedings of the 25th annual conclave of this Grand Commandery, which was held in the city of Lincoln, April 29th.

There were present : R. E. Sir Richard P. R. Millar, Grand Commander, R. E. Sir Wm. R. Bowen, Grand Recorder, all the staff save one, representatives from 19 subordinate Commanderies, 20 Grand Representatives (ours not among them), 11 Past Grand Commanders, 1 Past Deputy and about a hundred Past Commanders.

The R. E. opens a short, business address as follows :

Another Templar year has gone down into the bottomless abyss of time, and all that remains is the record of what was done.

Following in the wake of three years of crop failures, the year has not been one of prosperity, and our Order has felt the effect, as have all other branches of society. But He who orders all things for the best, the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe, has graciously smiled on us, and the most abundant crops in the history of the State were harvested in 1896. And, although low prices prevail, it is now bringing money into the State, and all feel that the sun of prosperity has already arisen ; and I feel that our beloved Order will receive in time its full share of returning prosperity. The trying times through which we have passed should have the effect of more closely cementing us together, and bringing forth the grand characteristics of our magnificent and noble Order.

He made eight decisions, all of which were sound in law and sense. He issued four "special orders"—what we call "dispensations"—all for sensible purposes. An excellent portrait of the R. E. adorns the pamphlet.

The proceedings are absolutely devoid of general interest. Total membership 1,679, a loss of 122.

There is no report on Correspondence, probably on account of failure

of crops. They can spend \$80, however, for a picture of and a jewel for the retiring Grand Commander. Well, well, some people's taste runs after pictures and jewelry instead of literature.

R. E. Sir Edwin C. Webster is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder Bowen continued. No Correspondence Committee.

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NEW YORK—1897.

The Eighty-Fourth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Jamestown, September 14.

There were in attendance: R. E. Sir Jno. A. Mapes, Grand Commander, Sir Jno. F. Shafer, Grand Recorder, 9 Past Grand Commanders, a lot of Past Eminent Commanders, Grand Representatives and the delegates from 56 Subordinate Commanderies.

After the opening ceremonies, several welcoming speeches were made and replied to. Among others, the Mayor made one which he opened as follows.

"Thour't welcome here dear Red Cross Knight;  
Come, lay thy armor by,  
And for the good tidings thou dost bring,  
We'll feast most merrily,  
For all in my castle shall rejoice  
That we've won a victory;  
And the mass shall be sung  
And the bells shall be rung  
And the feast eat merrily."

Thus runs the stanza of the hymn of the Red Cross, which ages ago cheered the heart and stirred the soul of many a holy warrior who fought for the cause of Christ.

While the above poetical effusion compares favorably with Tennyson's happiest efforts, the decidedly mixed character of the proposed entertainment does not commend it to our taste. Nor can we endorse the proposition that there was any considerable number of "holy warriors" engaged in the late unpleasantness between Christendom and Moslem.

If Scott approximated the truth in his writings there was nothing, literally *nothing* in the lives, character or conduct of the Templars when the Order was at the zenith of its power, to commend it to the respect, even, of decent people, to say nothing of those who truly love and serve God. Such being the case the less we have to say of the virtues and holiness of the founders and ancient members of the Order, the better it will be. As fighters, the ancient Templars were a success; as saints or holy men, they were a bald failure and we all know it.

Grand Commander Mapes opens a lengthy but well written and interesting address as follows:

Notwithstanding the stringency of the times and the financial depression which have been so deeply felt throughout our whole country, the past year has been one of great prosperity for our Order in this jurisdiction. The most perfect harmony has prevailed among us; dissensions

have been practically unknown ; the ties of fraternal affection have been lengthened and strengthened, and our ranks have been largely recruited from those who, realizing the benefits of the Order and its elevating influence upon humanity, have enlisted under our banners, to become, as we hope, with us, valiant soldiers of the Cross. Our relations with sister jurisdictions have been in all respects friendly and harmonious. Not a ripple of dissent or complaint from any source has appeared to disturb the surface of the waters, and today we meet in this our Eighty-fourth Annual Conclave in perfect peace with all the Templar world.

Surely we should come together with grateful hearts to Him whose Fatherhood we gladly recognize, for all His goodness to us, and for the guiding hand with which He has so lovingly led us throughout the year.

Surely our brethren of the Empire State have much cause for gratulation and thankfulness.

Death seems to have been busy in that jurisdiction and to have taken some of the brightest and best of the host, among them Past Grand Commander Sir Robt. Black. Just and eloquent tribute is paid to the memory and merit of the distinguished dead of his own and sister jurisdictions.

He made but three decisions, the second of which we copy :

#### DECISION NO. 2.

Q. A Sir Knight who had been dropped from the roll of his Commandery for non-payment of dues, afterwards paid up his indebtedness, and asked for a receipt in full, which was given him under the seal of the Commandery. He now asks for a dimit, that he may join another Commandery. Can it be given him ?

A. His payment of the arrearages of dues merely discharged his indebtedness to the Commandery. It did not restore him to membership. That can only be effected by a majority vote. Dimits can be properly granted only to members. He is entitled, however, upon his application therefor to a vote upon the question of restoration. Should that vote be adverse, the Commandery should give him a certificate under seal, stating that he had been a member : that his name had been dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues only, and that thereafter such dues had been fully paid by him ; but that he had not been restored to membership. Such certificate would be equivalent to a dimit.

This is the first instance we remember where such a result followed the payment of arrearages of dues for which the Sir Knight had been suspended. We have never heard of a law that makes non-payment of dues what might be called a capital crime in Masonry. The almost universal rule is that suspension for this cause simply suspends membership, which is instantly revived by the payment of indebtedness and this, in our opinion, is the only just and proper way to do in these cases. The rule that seems to govern in New York leaves a way open to the performance of unjust discriminations against members who, unfortunately, have fallen behind and been suspended. A little manipulation of the ropes will enable one to *keep out* one who is personally obnoxious to one or more of the members. Besides all this, the penalty far surpasses the measure of turpitude in the offense and the law should be so amended as to restore the member to *all* his former rights when he pays up, and this without action.

He issued a multitude of dispensations, but all for proper purposes, quite a number of them being to attend church in uniform. Our distinguished Brother thinks it a matter of gratulation that there is a growing tendency in the Order towards this sort of thing, and while we are unable to endorse any church-going rig that renders the alleged worshiper a conspicuous object in God's house, we are not disposed to find fault with those who take stock in this sort of thing. He closes an able and interesting address as follows :

We enter upon a new year with bright prospects ; with everything to cheer and encourage us ; our Order was never more prosperous ; never more fully or deservedly commanded the respect of the communities in which we live. Our aims are high ; our mission is a noble one. We shall surely reach those aims and fulfil that mission, if we live up to our high professions, and duly improve our opportunities. The favor of a kind and loving Father ever rests upon those who, recognizing the Brotherhood of Man, earnestly seek to elevate the standard of true manhood, and to make life sweeter and better for all to whom that life is given. With this as our aim and purpose, and God as our helper, our future success is fully assured.

A portrait of the R. E. adorns the pamphlet. The proceedings are local, mostly. As stated by the R. E. the Order is in most excellent condition in all respects. Total membership 11,376, a gain of 339.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is signed by the entire committee but we doubt not, was prepared by our valued friend and Brother P. G. C. Anthony. Like all his work it is good, square, courteous and true, and reflects credit upon the imperial Jurisdiction whose servant he is. The report covers over a hundred pages and digests the minutes of 41 Templar legislatures, ours for 1897 getting nearly five pages. He gives a synopsis of Bro. Buchanan's address, notes pleasantly the long service of our Bro. Power, as Grand Recorder, characterizes Bro. Jones' sermon as appropriate, quotes the resolutions of Bro. Fred. Speed anent the Grand Encampment and comments thereon as follows :

The fact that the Grand Encampment has already adopted a portion of the revised Constitution, and the remaining portion has been submitted and will probably receive approval at the next Triennial Conclave, confirms our belief that no such radical change would be favorably entertained. The further fact that these resolutions will undoubtedly be presented to the Grand Commandery of New York deters us from any consideration of the proposed plan. As we have heretofore advocated a principle somewhat similar in character, there may be no impropriety in a few words at this time. We believe that the Constitution and Code of the Grand Encampment should be simplified, and by classification embrace (1) the organic law applicable to the Order in general—fundamental principles and regulations ; (2) Constitutional provisions applicable to Grand Commanderies, limited to essentials, leaving to each Grand Commandery the adoption of statutes and regulations for its government and that of its Subordinates, conformable to the special requirements and obligations of the law of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of its Jurisdiction ; and (3) any special regulations necessary for the government of the Subordinate Commanderies holding warrants direct from the Grand Encampment. It does not appear to us that any such arrangement will be perfected by the Grand Encampment at the coming Triennial. There is an indispensable necessity for the present Constitution

and Code of laws being made harmonious in various particulars, a classification and revision of the various decisions in the Digest of Templar Law, that provisions for the government of Subordinate Commanderies under the immediate jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment should be specific, and that every Grand Commandery should be allowed to regulate its own internal affairs between it and its Subordinates, conformable, of course, to the general law of the Supreme Grand Body.

We fear that our Fred's Egg will not hatch much of a chicken, greatly as we desire that it should. He also says :

We are pleased to see that Sir Charles S. Eastman, Past Commander, formerly of the Grand Jurisdiction of New York, was elected a member of this Grand Commandery.

Bro. Anthony's attention to our report is pleasant and highly appreciated. He copies the "unofficial" minutes in regard to Miss Laura Patrick's election as sponsor for Ivanhoe Commandery and incidents connected therewith and remarks: "We do not understand the following, but undoubtedly it is all right."

Of course it is, Bro. Anthony, or Phineas would not have engaged in it. He seldom engages in disreputable acts and the same may be said of his associates in this matter.

Referring to some part of our report Bro. A. says :

We had no intention of uttering any words which could be termed "unkindly criticism;" and as we review that portion quoted by him, we do not see wherein our frater could take any just exception thereto. However, as he says his remark was intended as a joke, we express our regret that we alluded to them in any way.

Which makes everything serene. Thanks, Brother.

Much space in the report is taken up with the defense of New York's contention for a more equitable distribution of the voting powers of the Grand Encampment, and right well does our brother hold up his end of the log. The fact that he has the ability to do this, coupled with the other fact that he has right and justice on his side, detracts somewhat from the wonder that he has vanquished the entire opposing host. Touching the rights of nonaffiliates our brother is equally pronounced in his views, but not nearly so close to the right as in the other case. Hear him under Texas, on the subject :

It has always been held, we think, that the complete severance of Masonic rights is only attained after due trial and an opportunity for defence. It is the highest penalty in the Masonic penal code, and we do not believe it can be inflicted except according to general Masonic usage. One who has been made a Mason is thereby invested with certain rights as one of a Brotherhood. The privileges thereby invested in him he should be protected in. He cannot be deprived of them except by due process of law, a trial and an opportunity for self-defence. If, upon conviction, the penalty is expulsion, then he is deprived of all Masonic rights. Only by and through such a procedure do we consider a complete severance of all Masonic rights can be effected.

We admit the authority of a Grand Lodge to enact laws limiting the rights and privileges of unaffiliates in their respective jurisdictions, but this applies more particularly to Lodge membership. To this extent their Masonic standing is affected, but most assuredly no simple enactment will be generally held to destroy the Masonic life of an unaffiliate.

Any enactment of that character would have to be obeyed within the



limits of the Grand Jurisdiction, subject to its control, and while it might be regarded as unjust, yet every Templar within that Jurisdiction would be bound thereby. Every Commandery within the same limits would have to conform thereto, as far as Templar rights are concerned. There can be no conflict between the two—the Master Mason governs.

The great difficulty in this matter is the unnecessarily harsh measures which are adopted in some Grand Jurisdictions, a declaration of a penalty which usage and custom has determined shall only be inflicted for the most grievous offence, and then only after the safeguard of a trial. Even that is further guarded by the privilege of appeal.

The necessity of complete harmony between all branches of Freemasonry is universally conceded. A Knight Templar has no exemption, by reason of the attainment of that high grade, from laws which are operative over and to him as a Master Mason. The relation—as between Master Masons—continues, and while our judgment may declare a law unjust—possibly not in accord with Masonic principles—yet it must be respected. We may deprecate and object to the law, but must admit that it is the law, and binding upon the Master Masons within the Jurisdiction wherein adopted. The Grand Lodge construes the law, and no other Masonic Grand Body can put a different construction upon it within its jurisdictional limits.

We hold that any fiat which destroys a Templar's Masonic life, without trial, is an outrageous law and contrary to the principles of Freemasonry. Furthermore, we believe all such laws will operate to the injury of the Jurisdiction within which they are sought to be maintained, and will result in their own correction by a demand for their repeal in self-protection.

Under Mississippi our frater expresses an opinion on the same line:

While we uphold the rights of the Grand Lodge to enact such laws as its constitution allows, we hold that there are some rights which the citizen has in the State and which the Mason has in the Lodge, of which, if not protected by the Constitution, he may be unjustly and tyrannically deprived. One of these is the right to a fair trial, to be confronted by his witnesses and to make his defense. In the State the accused, whether great or weak, rich or poor, guilty or innocent, is guaranteed those rights. It is a principle of justice. An order that has justice emblazoned on its shield, as Masonry has, ought by no means to deny this boon to every member.

We therefore hold that any law which deprives a Mason of his rights as such, and dissolves the bonds that unites him to his brethren without a trial, without notice and without an opportunity to confront his witnesses and make a defense is unjust and tyrannical, and therefore unmasonic.

It is not a matter of sympathy any more than the passage of a law, by the legislature, that gives a murderer a fair trial is an evidence of sympathy with the criminal.

Now we suggest this as a solution of the difficulty. It may not be possible to get the Grand Lodge to adopt the suggestion, but we think the Templars of the State might work for it. Mississippi having enacted that non-affiliation is a Masonic offense, if the Grand Lodge will by edict require that the Lodges prefer charges against non-affiliates in their respective Jurisdiction; try and punish them just as they do for other offenses—such as swindling, theft, drunkennes and other unmasonic conduct, punishing each one according to what the Lodge may think right, with the usual rights of appeal to and revision by the Grand Lodge, all cause for Templar legislation will be obviated, all discussion as to the rights of non-affiliates hushed, and ten so-called "drones" in the Masonic hive reformed, restored to the Lodge and made valuable members, to where there is one under the present system.

Far be it from us to dictate, we only express what are our honest sentiments.

Of course we cannot endorse the whole of either one of our brother's views along here, nor are we disposed to hang a person without trial, unless he deserves it, as he does in this case. All sympathy and consideration is wasted when extended to Masonic Drones, we think.

Sir Arthur MacArthur is R.: E.: Grand Commander. Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### NORTH DAKOTA—1897.

The Eighth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Devil's Lake, July 10th. There were present: Sir Wm. T. Perkins, R.: E.: Grand Commander; Sir Frank J. Thompson, Grand Recorder; all the staff except the Prelate and Treasurer; 3 Past Grand Commanders, 12 Grand Representatives (not including ours) and delegates from 7 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is short but exceedingly well written. Fully one-half is devoted to proper tribute to the Knightly dead, his own Jurisdiction furnishing but two of the long list and one of them a non-affiliate. He made but two decisions, neither of which would have been asked for had the questioner been as familiar with common Masonic and Templar law as he should have been.

He issued no dispensations, which is remarkable. He was absent at the Cripple Creek gold fields a goodly share of his term, which left the Deputy in command, who submitted a short report, in which, however, we find nothing of general interest.

An excellent portrait of the Grand Commander makes an admirable frontispiece to the pamphlet. The inspections were general and quite thorough and the Order is in a healthy condition.

The proceedings were mostly local. The Grand Treasurer's absence is accounted for in the fact that he is the Governor of the State, thus proving the familiar utterances in the charge to an E. A.:—"The greatest and best of men, in all ages, have been encouragers and promoters of our Art," etc. It had another practical confirmation when we joined the Order, but that was a long time ago and we had begun to grow lonesome!

Total membership 426, a gain of none, i. e., the gain of 12 was counterbalanced by a loss of like number.

There is no report on Correspondence. nor do they take the trouble to appoint a committee, even under the title "Episode," we find the following by the Grand Recorder:

It would hardly be just to Cyrene Commandery No. 7, of Devils Lake, to leave unmentioned the unbounded hospitality which was extended to the officers and members of this Grand Commandery during its present Conclave. That the readers of this report in other Grand Jurisdictions may the better know the situation, we would say that the city of Devils Lake is located about a mile from a large body of water known as Devils

Lake, upon the banks of which the Chautauqua Association has its grounds and holds annual assemblies. The Conclave was held during the Chautauqua session. On Thursday evening the members of the Grand Commandery were driven to Chautauqua grounds, which are about five miles distant, where they were entertained in a large hall by the entertaining program furnished by the Assembly.

At 2 o'clock Friday, we were again driven to the Chautauqua grounds, at which place we embarked upon one of the excursion steamers and taken to Fort Totten, an Indian Reservation about five miles away. It was at the time of the year when the Indians were receiving visitors from their fellow red-men from other reservations in Minnesota, and their annual dance was in full progression. About 5000 Indians were encamped in their tepees, which were set singly and in a circle covering the circumference of about a mile of land.

The Grand Commandery had the pleasure of witnessing a Squaw Dance, the participants of which were not only matronly looking squaws, but the dusky belles of the aborigines of our country. And also witnessing what is known as the Grass Dance, in which the braves, or as called in the West the "bucks," participated, a scene which to be appreciated must be witnessed; for no language can describe the grotesque, unique and bizarre costumes, and lack of costumes, which these dowdy red-men possessed, or did not possess. We shall not mention names, but a number of the members of our Grand Commandery are old frontier men, who had hunted the buffalo, and, no doubt, in the past have had many an Indian scalp dangling at their belts, were so vividly reminded of old times that they leaped into the arena and kept time to the beating of the tom toms, and gave vent to such blood-curdling yells that not a few of the Indians were scared from the ring.

Indeed, it may be urwise to state that after the Grand Commandery had returned to the Chautauqua grounds, and had enjoyed an elegant repast furnished by the wives, etc., of members of Cyrene Commandery, that they took the big bass drum from the Indian Band, which was near by, and formed themselves into a circle and began a series of gyrations that would undo the most expert Indian dancer, letting forth war whoops that startled every individual on the grounds, and astonished the members of the Indian Band so that they left their instruments and fled to the Indian Agent, who had come with them for protection.

Before closing these remarks, we would say that Cyrene Commandery owns a large strip of land contiguous to the Assembly grounds, and upon which is a commodious cottage, and the use of which they have tendered the Grand Commandery and their families during the Chautauqua season.

Sir Jno. D. Black is R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Frank J. Thompson, Grand Recorder.

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#### OKLAHOMA—1897.

The Twenty-Second Annual Conclave was held in the city of El Reno, February 1. Present: R. E. C. McD. Burnes, Grand Commander. Sir H. S. Cunningham, Grand Recorder, and delegates from four Subordinate Commanderies.

The address covers less than two pages and is devoid of general interest. He congratulates the Body on the large attendance and the promised prosperity of the Grand Body.

The dispatches this A. M., January 12, report. "Lo the poor Indian" on

the war path with the usual accompaniments of murder, scalps and devilment in that territory! We hope the Grand Commandery will escape and that the "noble red-men" of Okolahoma may sent to the "Happy Hunting Grounds" before the present unpleasantness is settled.

The proceedings were of local interest only. Total membership 169, a gain of 21.

There is no report on Correspondence. A committee was appointed and we will hope for a report next year.

R.: E.: Sir DeForest DeFrancis Leach, is Grand Commander; E.: Sir Harper Samuel Cunningham is Grand Recorder.

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#### OHIO—1897.

The Fifty-Fifth Annual was held in the City of Toledo, in conjunction with Toledo's Commandery, No. 7, which celebrated its semi-centennial on that occasion, September 8. The "Preludium," which contains a history of the incidents of the celebration, covers a number of pages and shows that a very pleasant and happy time was had. The session of the Grand Body which followed was interesting and harmonious and the attendance large, consisting of R.: E.: Barton Smith, Grand Commander, E.: Sir John Nelson Bell, Grand Recorder, all the staff, except the Captain of the Guard, 11 Past Grand Commanders, 2 Past Grand Captain Generalissimos, 27 Grand Representatives, including ours, a multitude of Past Commanders and Representatives from 54 Subordinate Commanderies. All except No. 35.

We note the absence of our good brother Carson on account of failing health, with profound sorrow and sincere regret. No doubt his absence made a void in the Grand Body most difficult to fill after so many years of uninterrupted attendance and devotion to the best interests of the Order there and everywhere. We earnestly pray that his life may be prolonged for many years.

The address is quite long, but is an elegant paper. He opens as follows:

Meeting as friends and brothers, in health, prosperity, and happiness, and acknowledging with a profound sense of gratitude the manifold blessings which the beneficent Father of all has showered upon us and ours, while we greet with joy the old and gladly welcome the new friends to fraternal love and fellowship, it is fitting that we should stand with uncovered heads while we pronounce the names of those who during the past year have been initiated into the most solemn mysteries of all, and have joined the concourse of the redeemed.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and virtues of the Knightly dead. Among the many who have been summoned to the eternal state, is Grand Prelate, Rev. Thos. Jefferson Melish, who passed away November 11, 1896, "full of years and of honors." Peace to his ashes.

He reports the inspection of every Commandery in the Jurisdiction at an average expense of only \$4.54 each, which is exceedingly cheap for what doubtless resulted in much material good.

Under the head of "Dispensations" we find this, which we commend to your good judgment for its wisdom and sound sense :

#### DISPENSATIONS.

A list of the dispensations granted during the year is hereto attached, marked "Exhibit A."

Many of these dispensations are such as ought not to have been asked of the Grand Commander, and yet which he could scarcely courteously refuse to grant. In most cases a Commandery ought not to permit itself to get in a situation to need relief from the ordinary rules ; but being in that situation, the refusal to grant a dispensation would ordinarily have done more harm than good.

Whenever a dispensation was granted to act upon a petition at a special conclave, or at a stated conclave in short time, I coupled the dispensation with a proviso that the special conclave should be duly called and notice thereof and of the purpose to vote upon such petition should be duly given to every member of the Commandery, in all respects in pursuance of Article 2, Section 3, of the Code, and that the petition should have been received at a stated conclave and duly referred to and acted upon by a committee, in all respects in accordance with Article 2, Section 5, of the Code. When the vote was to be taken within a short time, I have required that personal notice should be given to each member of the Commandery at least three days before the meeting.

The usual number of requests for dispensations to appear in public in uniform for the purpose of attending picnics, decoration day services, public parades, and other like occasions, not Masonic, have been refused.

Among his decisions we find this : "That no division of dues for part of the year should be made." We beg to differ on the ground of common honesty. I owe dues for no longer time than I am a member, hence it is eminently right, proper and our bounden duty to divide up dues according to time. The fact that the Grand Body sustained the decision as being in conformity to the law up there, makes no difference—the law is wrong there, as it has been on the same subject in Mississippi for several years. Our Grand Lodge, at its session in February last, decided that dues were due only for the period of membership—that a brother is indebted only from the date of his affiliation, and to the date of his withdrawal. He says of

#### THE OHIO MASONIC HOME.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Board of Trustees and the fraternity at large upon the successful completion and opening, for the care of the needy, of the magnificent Ohio Masonic Home, which took place on April 1st. At this time the Home needs all the help that we may be able to give it and I earnestly recommend that whatever can be safely spared from our funds be donated to the Home to assist in its support until permanent means can be devised and provided.

He thus reviews the year :

#### THE YEAR.

The year has been one of profound peace and harmony. Scarcely a ripple has disturbed the calm but majestic progress of our beloved Order. With but three or four exceptions, our Commanderies are thriving and prosperous, and in each of these cases I think the lack of zeal

and enthusiasm arises out of local and temporary causes, which, with time and patience, will pass away.

The growth of the Order has been satisfactory. There are now upon the rolls of the Grand Commandery of Ohio 8263 Knights Templars in good standing, a net gain for the year of 192.

It is a noble army, carefully selected from nearly all the walks of life. Its members are the leaders in thought and good works in every community, and their character is such that we may well be proud to enjoy fraternal fellowship with them. Not all good men are Masons and thousands of excellent Masons are not Knights Templars, but I rest secure in the belief that 8000 others who are the equals of the brethren of our Order in manliness, ability and generous and knightly character, can not be found within the broad confines of our State.

Let us each resolve anew that so far as lies within our power the fair fame of this Christian and Knightly Order shall pass on to the generations yet to come untarnished and unimpaired.

The proceedings were voluminous but were mostly of local interest. The report of the Superintendent and Secretary of the Ohio Masonic Home is very interesting reading. The receipts from all sources up to July 31st, 1897, were \$174,929.39, from the following sources:

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Lodges.....        | \$ 70,017 15 |
| Chapters.....      | 35,608 42    |
| Councils.....      | 2,637 21     |
| Commanderies.....  | 12,205 16    |
| Scottish Rite..... | 880 00       |
| Individuals.....   | 46,093 52    |
| Miscellaneous..... | 7,487 93     |

\$174,929 39

Receipts for the year from all sources.....\$ 25,923 79

Disbursements for all purposes up to July 31, 1897.....\$173,798 17

Leaving balance in hand at that date of \$1,131.22, out of which was to come \$478 of unpaid accounts, which left the net available balance \$653.22.

There are 47 inmates of the Home, viz: Twenty-seven men—average age 72 5-9 years; 7 women, average age 67 years; 7 girls, average age 6 5-7 years, and 6 boys, average age 10 years. To these may be added 10 new arrivals up to September, making total of inmates 57, less one discharged.

It costs \$1,072 per month to maintain the Home, which strikes us as being very high, as we have here three Orphan Asylums, each one of which has more inmates than the "Home" and it costs no one of them half that amount per month.

The report estimates the average per capita cost of table supplies for inmates and employees \$69.00 per year, and allowing fifty as the number of inmates, we have an annual cost for the table of \$3,450, leaving \$9,420 to be applied to other purposes, as the total for all items for maintenance is \$12,870.00 per annum. This looks to us like a large proportion, but of course we are not posted. There can be no doubt but that the "Home" is an honor to the kindness of heart of our Buckeye brethren and credit to Masonry in that jurisdiction.

Our old and valued friend, Bro. Enoch T. Carson, is on hand with his

twenty-second annual report on Foreign Correspondence, in which he digests the transactions of forty-five Templar governing bodies in his usual forcible, courteous and impartial style. We regret to note the absence of Mississippi and are at a loss to imagine how it happened. Our pamphlet was out early and should have been in Ohio early in June.

Bro. Enoch credits Arkansas with the paternity of our Fred's Grand Encampment resolutions, copies them and remarks: "The organic law of the General Grand Chapter is a great big nothing. Follow it and in a few years the Grand Encampment would be as maudlin as the General Grand Chapter."

That is the way we would be glad to see it. Now it is entirely too self-assertive and needs budling, we think.

Under Iowa we find the following which is full of sound sense:

Brother Coxe says he does not concede the extreme States' rights theory of some of our brethren as to the absolute supremacy of Grand Lodge legislation over all Masonic bodies.

Here we disagree with Brother Coxe. We don't like the phrase "States' rights," never did, never expect to; we cannot apply it to the Grand Lodges.

We think the Grand Lodge is the highest court in Masonry, from which there is no appeal in Masonry, and whenever the law of any of the so-called higher Orders of Masonry conflict with the laws of the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction, the Grand Lodge law should, in our opinion, prevail.

Under New Hampshire he quotes Bro. Wait's reply to our critique of certain poetry quoted by the Grand Commander in his address, and remarks: "We are with Bro. Wait, and think he does his work well, but our dear old brother of Mississippi, not to use a Latin phrase—"puts his foot in it." No offense in that, Bro. DeLap."

Not a bit, Bro. Carson, except you are off your base when you call me old. We are still a boy and always expect to be.

Regarding Bro. Wait and the "jingle" business we are of exactly the same mind as to the merits of the composition that we have been all the time.

The report, as a whole, is, like all the other twenty-one, of the highest order, and we would be glad to incorporate more of it into this document, but our space for Ohio is full. He closes with a sketch of his Templar life which he prefaces as follows:

Having gone through and noticed all the printed proceedings of the Templar Grand bodies of the United States, Canada, and England, for the year ending with 1897, it would be in order now to suspend our labor. I propose, however, to add a chapter to the report, as several of my old Templar friends, and some of my younger ones, too, have importuned me to give them a sketch of my Templar life, in connection especially with the ritual, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Ohio, and with the Grand Encampment of Knights Templars of the United States; and inasmuch as this is the twenty-second year of my Templar life as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, I have thought that such a paper might possess interest to the reading Templars, and that it would not be inappropriate to comply with this request. This contribution will be

principally PERSONAL and autobiographical, and, as unavoidable in such papers, the capital *I* plays an important part. I trust that those of my readers who honor me by reading this sketch will pardon me for the frequent use of this capital letter and not attribute it to excess of egotism on my part.

We should be glad to copy it all, but it is too long and can't be abridged. Our venerable brother is getting along in years and we fear is growing feeble in body, but the natural force of his mind and the brilliancy of his intellect remains unabated. May God bless our brother and make the evening of his life a foretaste of the joys that await the blest in Heaven.

Robt. V. Hampson is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent same as before.

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#### OREGON—1897.

The 11th Annual Conclave was held in the city of Eugene, October 14th. Present: R. E. Sir Robt. S. Bean, Grand Commander; E. Sir James F. Robinson, Grand Recorder; 4 Past Grand Commanders, 14 Grand Representatives, a dozen Past Eminent Commanders and delegates from 6 Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of Grand Commander is a short but comprehensive *resume* of his administration and is almost entirely local in its references. He reports peace and a fair measure of prosperity as prevailing and intimates that an increase in tariff taxation is the harbinger of better times. How blind our partisanship nearly always makes us.

Proper mention is made of the Knightly dead and just tribute paid to their memory and worth. Regarding representation in Grand Encampment he has this to say, among other things:

While it may be conceded that any true and loyal Sir Knight of the Order, entitled to a seat in the Grand Encampment as a Representative from this Jurisdiction, will willingly and cheerfully pay his own expenses if he can do so without material injury to himself or those dependent upon him, yet we must not overlook the manifest injustice of expecting him to do so. And more, the personal expense of a Grand Representative is but a small portion of the outlay incident to a proper representation in the Grand Encampment. I submit the matter to you, and ask an earnest consideration of the same.

We would like to inquire what other than personal expenses of delegates were, properly, incident to attendance on the Triennials? We suspect the item of liquid refreshments at headquarters, and the custom, the most senseless and vicious of all customs that obtain among men, of clinching a newly formed acquaintance or a reunion with an old friend, by a resort to the "Bar," plays a leading role in swelling the expense account on these occasions. As we remarked in a former report, it is a matter of surprise to us that in the entertainment of visitors, and in many of the social functions the presence and aid of wines and spirituous drinks, is thought an essential element of success. In other words, many people have no higher conception of hospitality and social intercourse



than to fill the stomach of a guest, and their own, too, with "liquid damnation" and "hell-broth!" The fact that many, if not all, of these lay claim to the title of Christian Gentlemen, only makes a bad matter worse.

The proceedings were of local interest only, except that the Tennessee resolutions in regard to the use of the Maltese Cross by other societies, were endorsed. Total membership 398, a loss of 16!

Seventy-six pages, or nearly two-thirds of the pamphlet, contains the excellent report on Correspondence of our good Brother, Past Grand Commander Hodson, in which the acts of nearly all the legislative bodies of the Order of the Temple are carefully and courteously considered, ours for '97 getting three pages. He opens as follows:

*Dear Fraters*—We again take pleasure in presenting to you the results of our labor in the reportorial field. The proceedings of a very few of the Grand Jurisdictions for the current year have not been obtainable, but from those received, we can truly report that the Orders throughout the entire country are in a more flourishing condition than could have been reasonably anticipated, and we have no doubt but with an era of general prosperity now immediately before us, that American Templary will enjoy a season of unparalleled prosperity.

We sincerely hope our Brother's prophesy of good times may come true. Under Colorado we find this:

The committee to whom was referred the matter of a Sir Knight who had been convicted of a crime and was serving time therefor, made report that the Sir Knight was a good man and that it was doubtful whether he was justly convicted, and they were in favor of staying with him; his Lodge acquitted him on trial, and his Chapter and Commandery refused to try him. We are pleased to note this action, for when a frater, through unfortunate circumstances gets into trouble, if ever there is a day when he needs friends, that is the time. And what are all our high-sounding professions worth if we fail to fulfill our obligations? If we believe our assailed brother to be innocent, stay with him forever and a day, let the world say what it will.

In all of which we concur. We find the following slice of nonsense under Connecticut:

Of the claim of New York and some of the other large jurisdictions to an increased number of votes in the Grand Encampment, he says:

When we consider that the state of New York has over 11,000 Templars upon its roll, and upon which it pays a per capita tax, and its representation in the Grand Encampment is the same as that of a Grand Commandery having only 114 members, we are compelled in all fairness to admit the injustice of the present plan.

The trouble with Sir Hugh, and all those who entertain such views as he expresses, is, they utterly mistake the fundamental principles of the organization about which they are writing. The Grand Encampment is not a body composed of "representatives" from the various Grand Commanderies; It is composed of "members" who become such on account of and by virtue of certain services to the Order, and the right of voting and assisting in the legislation of the Supreme Body of the orders comes from such universally recognized services. There is no where in the constitution nor in the customs of the Orders any thought that the representative feature shall predominate, and to make the change would be to remodel the entire organization; and if carried to the logical result would authorize the large Commanderies in any state to have more votes

than the small ones and require something never before done, that is, the election of representatives who were not otherwise qualified to sit in Grand Commandery.

We are inclined to the belief that Bro. J. M. has fallen off the Christmas tree and broke his head. The above contention is entirely too thin and is unworthy of its author. Bro. Hugh is right—Bro. J. M. is wrong.

As indicated above Bro. Hodson's attention to our pamphlet is full and it is always fraternal. He characterizes the picture of the Great American Shriner, Bro. Buchanan, as "an elegant portrait," and he might have added of an elegant, genial gentleman as well.

He has some pleasant words for this committee, which are appreciated, but we cannot endorse his views as to the moral and spiritual improvement of this world of ours, as expressed in this clipping :

The world is growing better and if Brother DeLap would only 'fess up, even the people of his own state, his friends, his neighbors, his fellow-citizens, those he knows and those who know him, are getting better every day, every year steadily, though it may be slow ; yet the world is growing wiser and better as the clouds of ignorance and superstition roll by. Even DeLap is improving.

We regret to see that in his review of Ohio he does not notice the Foreign Correspondence report. "Let us have peace." We copy his closing :

And from nearly all come evidences of a reasonable degree of prosperity. The questions discussed are not new but they are of abiding interest and should command the careful and intelligent consideration of all Templars until properly settled. We trust we shall be honored by a perusal of this report by nearly, if not all the fraters of our jurisdiction. For each one of you there is a copy prepared and we are sure that our quotations are very worthy of careful consideration, no matter what may be said of the comments. It has ever been our object, in our humble way, to diffuse true Masonic light—and in giving the latest news from the Templar world we trust that every sentiment expressed in every selection made may be for the widening and deepening of the best thought in our magnanimous Orders. The past, at least, is secure and it remains for each of us to act well his part that the future may indeed be ours. That the orders whose principal tenet is the practice of the Christian virtues shall continue to wield their mighty influence for the betterment of mankind.

R. E. L. C. Marshall is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Reporter as before.

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#### PENNSYLVANIA—1897.

The Forty-Fourth Annual was held in the city of Easton, May 25. There were present : R. E. Sir Samuel S. Yoke, Grand Commander ; R. E. Sir Wm. W. Allen, Grand Recorder, 9 Past Grand Commanders, 14 Grand Representatives, and delegates from 70 Subordinate Commanderies.

The opening was preceded by an eloquent address of welcome from Sir

Howard A. Hartwell, Mayor of the city, which was responded to in fitting terms by Past Grand Commander Smith, on behalf of the R. E. and the Grand Body.

The R. E. opens an interesting and well written address as follows :

Time, moving with swift, silent steps, brings us to the close of an official term of this Grand Commandery; and we, who are still left to watch and ward, and to bear the burdens of life, must gratefully acknowledge the favor we have enjoyed and the mercy we have received from the Grand Captain. before whose great power we all in reverence bow.

In the midst of slow decay around us, our Order has grown and flourished with the vigor and strength of youth ; and during the past year its officers and members have sought to increase its efficiency for the performance of the philanthropic work that ever commands the best endeavors of the faithful Knight.

He visited about one-fifth of his Subordinates. He issued a multitude of dispensations, but all for proper purposes. He refused to allow two of his Subordinates to be religious in swords, belts, baldricks and chapeaus on Sunday. He had, however, granted a general dispensation allowing the whole seventy-seven to do this act on "Easter" and "Ascension Day," and we confess our inability to understand why one should not be pious on an ordinary as well as on an Easter Sunday, the latter being simply a relict of heathen mythology, borrowed by some of our churches. We presume these two Commanderies had a sporadic case of religious fever and the R. E. feared it might become epidemic if he encouraged it, as this sort of disease can't be kept out by quarantine. He made lots of decisions, but all were in accordance with the law and common sense.

A portrait of the R. E. adorns the pamphlet. A gentle, kindly face, a head blossoming for the grave, yet with an eye as bright and clear as that of a child and every indication that his natural force is not abated, but that many years may yet be added to his lease of life. God grant that it may be so. We copy his conclusion :

Sir Knights, as your Grand Commander, I now must say to you farewell ! I feel that I have not adequately filled the high office with which I have been honored, yet, since I have sincerely tried to do my best, I am sure of your kind consideration for my endeavors. No man who honors his Knighthood can relinquish the sceptre as Grand Commander and sever all its kindly connections, with such comrades as those who have surrounded me, without regret ; yet, when I consider the eminence and the worth of my successor, I can only rejoice to pass this great authority into such hands. And in doing so, let me testify that nowhere can be found hearts more loyal, fidelity more devoted, hands more willing than are here among the true Knights of this Grand Commandery.

That it may be blessed with the true wisdom, that it may flourish as a tree whose roots are watered by the river of Life, and that all its members may be true to the "Cross and Crown" through all the conflicts of life, is my last wish, as your Grand Commander.

The proceedings are mostly confined to local matters. To those of you who expect to attend the Triennial, at Pittsburg, in 1898, it will, no doubt, be a pleasure to know that the matter of Grand Encampment and its entertainment at Pittsburg is having the most careful consideration by the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, and we presume that Boston will be equalled, if not surpassed, by Pittsburg.

Touching the matter of the "Masonic Home of Pennsylvania," we copy the following from the report on that subject :

#### MASONIC HOME.

The Representative to the Masonic Home of Pennsylvania, E.: Sir M. Richards Muckle, presented the following report, which was, upon motion, received :

EASTON, May 26, 1897.

*To the R.: E.: Grand Commander, Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Pennsylvania :*

SIR KNIGHTS—Your Representative to the Masonic Home of Pennsylvania makes this his Annual Report of the condition of the Institution, at the close of the year 1896.

The membership consists of 109 Blue Lodges, 3 Mark Lodges, 16 Chapters, 14 Commanderies, 1 Council, 3 A. and A. Scottish Rite Bodies, together 146, four more than were reported in the last Annual Report. In addition to the above mentioned there are 2 Honorary Members, 37 Life Members, 60 Members, and 400 Annual Contributors, making an aggregate membership of 645, an increase of 94. The number of inmates at the close of the year was 37.

The Treasurer reported the balance and receipts for the year to be \$16,919.73, from which amount \$7,000 was invested, and the expenses for maintenance was \$10,302.05, which left the Treasury overdrawn \$382.32.

The assets, consisting of the Real Estate, premium on fire policies, personal property, and cash in hands of the Committee on Supplies, amounting to \$65,072.25.

The Investments, par value, sum up \$103,372.51, an increase of \$3,875.73.

Legacies to amount of \$822.54, were received, and the three Grand Bodies of the State, and the A. and A. S. Rite also made the usual liberal contributions.

President Wagner in his report says :

"You will note that for the first time in the history of the Home we are compelled to report a liability, our cash balance on November 30, 1896, being insufficient to pay the bills incurred for that month.

"In addition to the amount due for the past year, and a possible similar deficiency for the current year, it will be necessary to provide funds to pay for the street improvements for which our property became liable because of the curbing and paving of Ontario street, as named in the report of the Committee on Property, and aggregating \$997.28.

"It would be well for all the members of the Corporation to bear in mind the fact that we enter 1897 with incurred debt of \$1,379.60, and that during the year we must have greater economies in maintenance, or larger contributions from the Craft, or a sale of some of our interest-bearing investments."

Grand Master William J. Kelly, a former member of the Board, in speaking of the Home, said :

"The great Masonic Charity, The Masonic Home, authorized under the auspices of a part of the Lodges and other Masonic Bodies, also by individual Masons who were willing to contribute of their means for so meritorious an object, is a fixed, worthy and creditable Institution, and I hope will receive the best thoughts of our Fraternity. I can conceive no higher aspiration or pleasant duty than to consider and alleviate the pains and cares of the aged and depressed. When a brother lives through a full ordinary lifetime, has battled with the world, finds at last that he is beaten in the race, that further effort is useless, that he must give up the struggle, and yet that existence is his, his only possession

that of a future, dark on every side, because of the discouragement and almost despair that is within him, a good brother discovers his distress, he cheers him, his Lodge is a member of the Home, knows its rules, knows its willingness to aid the distressed brother and turns him from darkness to sunshine. Can anything be more blessed? Is there anything in this world more noble than to succor him, who is for the second time a child, and give him a home of comfort, rest and content? The Masonic Home is a practical charity, it has passed beyond the experimental stage. Yet it is crippled for want of a permanent income. It has now invested in its permanent fund \$40,000; it should have \$250,000. I trust that our whole Jurisdiction will become interested and that they will find some means to increase this amount, until it may reach the sum named. Since the Home was organized it has taken care of eighty aged brethren. It now has thirty-seven inmates. Its entire salary list is only \$600 per annum, so that money paid to it goes to supporting our brethren."

We should be glad to have copied it all for the benefit of Bro. Barkley and the balance who are so hopeful of the ultimate establishment of a similar charity in our State. No doubt the way is *long* that will bring us to the fulfillment of our desires, owing to our poverty and the smallness of our numbers. If, however, we do the best we can, our reward is sure when we reach that "Upper and Better Country."

We note that the pay roll for last year amounted to \$2,089.56, and miscellaneous expenses to \$2,089.93, a difference of only 37 cents! These two items show the preponderance of Templary in Pennsylvania, as compared with Mississippi. We have the consolation, however, of knowing that to "whomsoever little is given of him shall be but little required."

One hundred and two pages of the pamphlet are occupied by the 4th annual report on Correspondence by Past Grand Commander Smith, in which the minutes of 43 Templar governing bodies are carefully and courteously considered, Mississippi for '96 receiving her due quota of attention, in the shape of liberal quotations from Bro. Jenkins' address and our report. He has the following as an opening:

One of the first duties fulfilled by our fraters of Mississippi upon assembling in Annual Conclave is to proceed to church, there to listen to an appropriate sermon. To our mind the custom is not only highly commendable, but in so far as it has been our privilege to peruse their proceedings, we feel they are more than repaid by being privileged to listen to the most eloquent discourses.

If we heartily commend the words of wisdom spoken by the Grand Prelate, we can do no less of those contained in the Grand Commander's address. They have no uncertain ring, and as we believe them to be sound Templar doctrines, we quote liberally.

Then follows a clipping of the major part of Bro. Jenkins' address, after which he says: "And we say most heartily—'so mote it be.'"

He heartily commends our report and only differs from us touching fealty to Grand Encampment, instead of to Grand Lodge. He then quotes us along this line and says:

We think you are right and wrong both—right in honoring the Grand Lodge, but wrong in defying the edicts of the Grand Encampment, so long as we acknowledge obedience to it

Here again our brother has fallen off the Christmas tree, for the reason that it is an impossibility to honor the Grand Lodge, to which my

primal allegiance is due, and continues so long as life lasts, without defying the edicts of the Grand Encampment so long as those edicts require a violation of my obligations to the Grand Lodge.

Sir Harry M. Van Zandt is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### SOUTH DAKOTA—1897.

The Fourteenth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Mitchell, June 11th; present: R. E. Sir Jas. F. Casselman, Grand Commander. E. Sir Geo. A. Pettigrew, Grand Recorder, all the other Grand Officers, three Past Grand Commanders, a number of Past Commanders, seventeen Grand Representatives, *not* including ours, and delegates from ten Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is short, well written and strictly business from "end to end." He visited, to their profit no doubt, most of his subordinates, speaks approvingly of some and finds fault with others. Only two of them are in the habit of opening in full form. Most of the officers memorize the ritual and avoid the use of books, which is refreshing, as nothing so much detracts from the interest and solemnity of the ritual as to have it read from books. He preaches a sensible sermon on the payment of dues and deprecates the practice of carrying members on the rolls for years who are able but neglect to pay their dues.

His decisions were in line with the Grand Encampment law. He granted but few dispensations, one being to the Aberdeen Commandery to parade at the reception "of the stones from the quarries at Jerusalem to adorn the Masonic Temple at Aberdeen."

He remarks as follows anent his visits:

During my visits to the Commanderies this year, I have noticed the absence of wine from the banquet tables. Sir Knights, if this was in deference to my wishes in this matter, I thank you. If on the other hand, it shows a change in the sentiment in regard to the use of wine at our banquets, then we have reason to rejoice. I am pleased to see the stand that has been taken by a large number of Commanderies throughout the United States in regard to the use and the sale of intoxicating liquors by Knights Templar.

To which we say—Amen. Selah!

A portrait of the R. E. adorns the pamphlet. A handsome, pleasant, kindly face.

The proceedings were local. Cash on hand, \$1,395. Order in healthy state. We note with a feeling of disgust that the Finance Committee, recommended an appropriation of \$25 to pay Chairman Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and \$75 for preliminary expenses Triennial Committee. Total membership 756—a gain of ten.

Correspondence covers eighty-two pages of good reading, digests the minutes of forty-three Templar governing bodies, Mississippi for 1896 among the rest, and is the finished work of Bro. Sam Hy Jumper, being his second offense. We copy his opening chorus:

We commence our Second Annual Report in midwinter. The old year, freighted with its joys and sorrows, its hopes and disappointments, has journeyed into the dim past, and we can hear but the faint rumble of its rolling wheels as it goes out of sight forever.

Outside of our comfortable home the snow covers the prairies to a depth never before known. Drifts are larger and wider and deeper than a church. In many places houses are buried so deep, tunnels through the hard, white snow have been excavated from door and window for egress and light.

In our snow-bound home, the drear monotony will be pleasantly broken as we receive the reports from New England seasoned with the salt spray of the dear old Atlantic; from the South, laden with the perfume of the magnolia and the palm; from the West with the sweet breath of the Pacific breezes; and for a while we shall forget the cold and the snow and the angry blizzard.

Our report is merely routine. Peace and harmony prevails in every Jurisdiction.

Under Maine we find this burst of patriotic sentiment:

Dear old Maine! Land of my birth. I love thy rock-bound coasts; thy mountains and thy boundless forests; thy numberless lakes and majestic rivers with waters cold and sweet. I love thy sterile plains, I love thy honest, rugged people. God grant, that if I do not return to thee ere my eyes are closed in deathly sleep, my lifeless body may be escorted by some beloved Sir Knight and deposited beneath thy sacred sod.

We trust our brother may spend many happy years in his native State before he sleeps the sleep that knows no waking here.

Bro. Sam'l Henry's attention to our pamphlet is fraternal and full. He quotes from Bro. Jenkins' address, but without comment, says of our welcome to him, as a member of the "Mutuals:"

"The welcome may not be in very classic language, but we take it in the right spirit just the same, and only wish we had the ability to make as good a report as brother -- Ruckle of Indiana."

Don't despair, Brother, you can beat him now!

He closes his excellent paper as follows:

Our task is completed.

Since we started out on our fanciful journey around the States the deep snows we described have melted into floods, and the floods have subsided, and the spring sunshine has warmed the earth, causing the grain which the husbandman has planted to clothe the broad prairies with waving green, promising a harvest that will feed the world. Our work is in your hands. The judgment is yours.

Sir Joseph F. Morrill is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### TENNESSEE—1897.

Thirty-fifth annual was held at Clarksville, May 12 and 13. The opening was preceded by an eloquent address of welcome from Rev. Sir Erwin of the local command, responded to in an elegant little speech by the Grand Commander.

The Committee on Credentials reported as present R. E. Sir Robt. W.

Haynes, Grand Commander, Sir Wilbur F. Foster, Grand Recorder, the entire staff, three Past Grand Commanders, 18 Past Commanders, 17 Grand Representatives, and representatives from 15 subordinate Commanderies. The address is a well-written and exhaustive *resume* of an uneventful but successful administration and mostly of local interest. Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the fraternal dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions. He issued one dispensation for a new Commandery. His decisions were in accord with the law as it stands. We clip a part of the closing of this excellent address :

In view of these things, what is the supreme problem of this hour as it bears upon the duties and responsibilities of the Orders of Christian Knighthood, and of individual Knights as well ? Is it not the part both of wisdom and of duty to reflect, whence we came, what we are, and whither we are tending; and to draw from our conditions, our necessities, our obligations and relations in life, to our own loved ones and those of our Brother Knights as well, that inspiration which will nerve our hearts, strengthen our hands and apply our resources to the end that Templar Masonry be made practically what it so beautifully appears in theory to be ?

A good and eminent Mason has defined Masonry to be "A beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. Truth is its center—the point whence its radii diverge—pointing out to its disciples a correct knowledge of the Great Architect of the Universe, and the moral laws which he has ordained for their government."

The definition is poetically good. But it does Masonry and particularly Christian Knighthood injustice. It describes the body, the jeweled casket, and throws around it the charms of mystery, vaguely hints at beauties unknown to, and unseen by, the uninitiated; but it falls far short of picturing Masonry as it is. It robs it of its soul, its heaven-born attribute, "relief," which soothes the unhappy, sympathizes with their misfortunes, compassionates their miseries, restores peace to their troubled minds, and administers to the wants of the worthy and needy.

Among the myths of heathen Pantheology there is a beautiful tradition, according to which Minerva, the goddess of War and Wisdom, without a mother, leaped forth from the brain of Jove, full panoplied; and because of her thus miraculous birth, Great Jupiter, her thundering sire, is fabled to have

"Bestrewed the Rhodians with a shower of gold."

So Masonry sprang from the brain of its illustrious founder and his eminent collaborators, the most magnificent conception of the ages. If it has not like Jove, "bestrewed this world with showers of gold," it has with unnumbered showers of blessings. It has illuminated the darkness of the human mind, and pointed the way-worn pilgrim, traveling from afar, to fountains of human knowledge, as manifested in the liberal arts and sciences ; it has stood for ages, the patron of all that is tasteful, or grand, or beautiful in architecture ; it reminds us of our rude and helpless estate by nature, and inspires the hope of reaching a higher and better life, in knowledge and virtue, and by the exercise of exalted human endeavor, under the blessing of the Almighty Father ; it sets before us as exemplars the Holy Evangelist ; it commends to us the Holy Scriptures as the man of councils and the guide of our lives ; it symbolizes hope and truth, in immortal green ; it seeks to plant in every soul a "living sprig" of faith in the merits of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah ; and with all these, it inculcates benevolence and charity.

Charity is the purest attribute of virtuous minds. Its glory lies not in



pretentious lavishings, in the pomp of power or the display of glittering magnificence; but chiefly in the succor it extends to the weary and the needy in times of sorrow and distress—like that, God's angels minister to those He loves; in the softest distillings of the dews of mercy, and in the practical demonstration of those divine truths which declare unmistakably the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Finally, Brethren, let us, Knights of the Temple, look well to a healthier sentiment and a more systematic plan of dispensing Masonic Charity so as to avoid the arrogant imposter on the one hand, and to find out and relieve the worthy object of our brotherly love and care on the other.

The proceedings were mostly local. The Grand Treasurer reports a balance of only \$158.14 on hand and the Grand Recorder a gain of only one in membership, viz: 1896—1090; 1897—1091. We also find the following in the minutes:

By Sir A. N. Sloan—

WHEREAS, The Maltese Cross has for centuries been the official insignia of our Order; and

WHEREAS, We note with much regret the appropriation of this emblem by other secret orders and religious societies, and knowing as we do that their action in thus using an emblem the very name of which is significant of our Order, is absolutely unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, Such conduct on their part is only calculated to mislead, and has already caused unnecessary confusion; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, 1. That this Grand Commandery protests against the action of other secret orders and religious societies in thus unnecessarily appropriating our time-honored significant emblem.

2. That our Grand Commander take such action as may be necessary to memorialize the Grand Encampment on this subject, with the view of bringing about a moral influence that will stop other orders and societies from misleading the public by the use of our emblem.

3. That our Grand Master correspond with our sister Jurisdictions on this subject, and send them a copy of these resolutions.

Adopted.

That settles it. By the time the Grand Encampment takes any action on the subject every secret order in the world will have ample time to supply its members with all our emblems. Besides the matter don't amount to shucks anyway. People that steal our emblems and thus sail under false colors never make much of an impression on sensible people.

A supplemental report from the Grand Treasurer shows a balance of \$943.00 with bills unpaid enough to bring it down to about the first figures named.

Rev. Sir Wm. R. Grafton, Grand Prelate, preached a most excellent sermon from St. John's Gospel, 8th chapter and 12th verse: "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life."

We have room for the closing paragraphs only:

Dear Frates, while Christ is the light of the world, to us as Knights Templar He is pre-eminently the source of light and life. What does this Christ mean to us as Sir Knights? When the thought of His birth is come we remember that His Heaven-given name is "Immanuel," "God with us," in His tender promise that He "so loved the world." As we view his life, who "went about doing good," so should His example be to us. He died, and by the power of that death He brought life and im-

mortality to light. On the bright morning of the resurrection He burst the bands of death, rose victorious to become the quickening spirit. He touches the heart-strings, as a master, and brings forth the divinest harmony. He ascended to His Father and our Father, and lifting up His pierced hands pleads our cause before the throne of God.

See Him, as with radiant light of hope and love He gives to every need its help, every aspiration its consummation, every hope its fruition, and let this loving Christ draw around our hearts His cords of immutable love.

He who said, "I am the light of the world," said also, "Ye are the light of the world." Sir Knights, forget not the responsibility of your position in the world.

"Let the lower lights be burning,"  
Send the gleam across the wave;  
Some poor, fainting, struggling seaman  
You may rescue, you may save."

May God with tender, infinite love keep you by His power, until the sword shall fall from wearied hand in the battle of love and mercy to be replaced in a better life with palms of everlasting victory.

Correspondence covers 106 pages, and is the finished work of P. G. C. Wilbur F. Foster, reviews the transactions of forty-two Templar legislatures, and is good from start to finish. Under Indiana we find this:

The Grand Commandery adopted the following report of the Committee on Jurisprudence upon this decision:

The committee report that in their opinion there is no authority for opening a Commandery for the purpose of an excursion or journey. The Commandery, as a body, being absent from the Jurisdiction by official permission of the Grand Commandery, no business can lawfully be transacted by the members remaining at home.

The first sentence we believe to be correct, but the second has very much the appearance of a *non sequitur*. A portion of the Commandery had assumed to do something which could not lawfully be done; therefore, they must be sustained in their illegal action and the penalty visited upon the other portion of the Commandery which did not participate in the illegal procedure.

In which we concur. (See page 62 of our proceedings for 1897 for a full report on the above.)

Under Iowa we find the following which is so good we hope you will all read and enjoy it, as we did:

We heartily wish that the next session of the Grand Encampment would make an authoritative deliverance on the subject, defining the limits of the proper application of the word "Masonic," and so relieve us from all doubt as to "Masonic" fairs, picnics, balls, horse-trots, and insurance fakes.

We approve all but the last sentence; but enter our earnest protest against thrusting anything further in the shape of *business* upon the attention of the Grand Encampment, to startle her nerves and endanger her life. The attack of partial paralysis with which she was prostrated in the midst of her work at Boston would surely become total and fatal if unexpected and thoughtless demands of this sort are to be permitted. Why is it that "Smart Alecks" will be continually startling the nerves of the dear old lady with unexpected and unreasonable propositions to do something? Please let her "rest in peace," so that she may serenely and smilingly enjoy her fine clothes, her grand banquets, her carriage

drives and the applause of the outside multitude; all of which, as everybody knows, constitute the great object of her existence. We do hope people will be more careful or we may lose her.

Understand that the small print above is Foster's text, and, unlike some preachers we wot of, he sticks to the text.

Bro. Foster's attention to our pamphlet is full, pleasant and fraternal. He copies from Bro. Jenkins' address, the minutes, Bro. Power's and our report, and has only pleasant words for one and all.

He closes his admirable report thusly:

Well, we have reached the end of "W." No unknown "X" demands that its value shall be determined, and so, with the last of our "copy" gone to the printer, we close the door of our den with a slam, and step out into the glorious sunlight, the bounding life of the glad springtime. We are off to the woods, the broad fields, the grand old hills, and the merrily dancing streams, where the air is full of the music of singing birds, and fragrant with the perfume of a thousand flowers.

O what fun it is to live! Especially in the springtime of the year, and in the springtime of life. The last has passed forever with some of us, but, thank God! the first comes back with ever-increasing beauty every year. Ever fresh and fair; ever brighter and more winsome as the years go by. Surely we may gladly welcome its joyous advent, for is it not a blessed premonition, a faint foretaste and type of that glorious Spring that will some day dawn for each of us beyond the river, the wondrous perfection of whose glory the heart of man cannot conceive, and whose brilliant, vigorous life will never fade into the season of the sear and yellow leaf.

And so, invoking the blessing of God upon all true Knights wheresoever dispersed, we remain.

Sir Wm. J. Ely is R. E. Grand Commander; P. G. C. Wilbur F. Foster is continued as Grand Recorder and Correspondent.

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#### TEXAS—1897.

The 43rd Annual was held at the city of Houston, April 21 and 22. Present: R. E. Sir J. F. Brinkershoff, Grand Commander; E. Sir G. A. Gibbons, Grand Recorder; all the balance of the Grand Officers, 10 Past Grand Commanders, 26 Grand Representatives, a lot of Past Commanders and delegates from 26 Subordinate Commanderies. The opening was preceded by devotional offices and the ritual is given in full. Any one having a Protestant Episcopal Prayer Book is likewise the owner of the Templar ritual, as it is taken, bodily, from the Prayer Book. Not that we object, at all, to the ritual or the parent stem from which it is taken, because we admire both, but it would have been better had they evolved something from their inner consciousness which would have one merit, at least, that of originality. The Grand Prelate's address was an eloquent and interesting effort.

The R. E. opens his address as follows:

Sir KNIGHTS—We have again assembled in Annual Conclave, and it affords me great pleasure to extend to one and all a hearty welcome and Knightly greeting to this, our Forty-third Grand Annual Conclave.

A few well known faces are absent who were with us one year ago,

and of those whom death has claimed, we have every assurance that in spirit they are watching over us.

We have met to review our work of the past year, exchange fraternal greetings and legislate for the good of our noble Order.

The past year has been one of unusual hard times and general depression in business circles, but notwithstanding all this, the Order has prospered throughout this Grand Jurisdiction.

I trust the coming year may be one of prosperity, and the building up of our noble and Christian Order.

Appropriate mention is made of the Knightly dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions. He made several decisions, all of which were correct, as the law stands. His dispensations were for legitimate purposes. The address is a well written paper, but is devoted almost entirely to local matters.

The proceedings were mostly routine and uninteresting to outsiders. The Treasury has a balance of \$1,024.47.

We copy a letter from the widow of the late veteran Grand Recorder Brewster, which is extremely touching :

*To the Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery of Texas, Friends and Knights Templar :*

It gives me heartfelt pleasure to be once more among you, to again see the dear familiar faces, so loved by your dear old friend and companion, now gone from our midst. You cannot realize how strange it seems to me—his absence—more so when among you, his dear companions, as he was always with me before. I cannot help looking for his dear face and listening for his kind and loving voice.

Words of mine seem but poorly to express to you, my dear friends and brothers, how deeply your great kindness has been felt by the widow of your dear old companion, so much loved and honored. Such actions are truly Knightly, and what more can be said than that of a companion. To be a true Knight, one must be true to himself and others, a good man in every sense of the word; that was my dear husband's opinion of the companions he was with so many years, and loved so well.

You cannot realize the comfort and solace in my hours of deep sorrow. to know and realize that through his love for the Order, he had gathered around me, dear good friends, to console me with the knowledge that I was not alone while his loved companions were near. To thank you, to express gratitude, seems like a form, when each and all of you, in your heart of hearts must know that all you could desire of deep and heartfelt gratitude and thanks are yours, more than words can express.

You cannot realize the longing I have to tell my dear one of your kindness to me, but alas ! I am alone, a part of my life went with him. How could we live with such loving companionship for fifty years, and one be taken and not feel that a portion of my life had gone with my dear loving husband.

You may not know that I am the daughter of a Mason, and have all my life, as a daughter and a wife, regarded Masonry as an excellent Order, and one honored and loved by my family. My father was a Royal Arch Mason, at a time when they were afraid to meet, not like the bright and joyous time when my dear one went from the first to the thirty-second degree. How he loved it from the very first; we were young then, and although he was absent a good deal, still he enjoyed it so much, I could not have the heart to lessen his pleasure by the slightest reproach of his absence.

And now my friends and Brother Knights Templar I will close with the hope that the influence of my dear husband's love may remain with

you. And that you all may be true Knight Templars, is the hope and desire of  
Your friend,

MARY C. BREWSTER.

We doubt not that our brethren of the Lone Star State will minister to the comfort and wants of this "Mother in Israel."

Total membership, 2115, a loss of 14! Largest Commandery, Colorado No. 4, 200; smallest, Malta, No. 2, 22.

Past Grand Commander Robt. M. Elgin again presents the report on Correspondence, which, like its predecessors from the same source, is an excellent and interesting paper. It covers 78 pages and courteously considers the transactions of 38 Templar Grands, Mississippi for 1896 getting her full quota of attention.

Under Arkansas we find these nuggets of wisdom:

Out of six dispensations granted by the Grand Commander, five were for conferring the Orders out of time, though he says:

"I confess that I do not deem it wise or expedient to grant dispensations unless great emergencies exist, and my observation has led me to believe that it is oftener neglect of duty than great emergencies that causes the asking for dispensations for balloting and conferring the Orders out of time."

As this question presents itself very often in perusing the annual proceedings that fall under our scrutiny, and as a great many Correspondents seem to have adopted as a sort of *fad* the habit of condemning every exercise of the prerogative of granting such dispensations, we take the liberty of expressing our opinion on the subject at the outset.

While we agree with Grand Commander Taylor in the extract quoted above, we have great respect for those laws, rules and practices that have come down to us sanctioned by ancient usage. Grand Masters have had this prerogative from time immemorial, and while they have abused it at times, and may have often been asked to exercise it in improper cases, yet it has never been taken from them. It is often that a Masonic body is as competent to act on one petition instanter as on another in a year. Often a candidate is so well known morally, socially and physically that the postponement of his application to a subsequent meeting is a mere matter of form, while on the other hand it not unfrequently happens that at the expiration of a month the candidate is entirely unknown except by the recommenders of the petition; and the members are compelled to vote on the recommendation of the committee made upon information received from third parties. Yet a rule must be made to which there can be no exception or discretion must be lodged somewhere to make the exception in cases of emergencies which must necessarily arise sometimes. Where can that discretion be more safely lodged than in the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Commander as the case may be? We believe it is generally exercised with caution and good judgment. The contrary are the exceptions and not the rule, and should not, therefore, be an objection.

We have always contended that unless the whole matter is left in the hands of the Subordinate Commanderies with power to vote instanter or after a specified time, as *they*, the Subordinate Commandery elect, that the issuance of these dispensations are the most practical, sensible and judgmental of any that Grand Commanders issue. Under Colorado we find this:

It was unfortunate that the Grand Encampment did not remain in session long enough to dispose of the business before it, if for no other rea-

son than that its failure has afforded so much ground for complaint by those who are predisposed to view that body as a useless and unnecessary institution. Our opinion is that if permanently located and shorn of the attractive features of a social gathering it will become a comparatively small body and attended by a select few who will shape legislation to suit their own particular views. There is danger of its degenerating into a sort of close corporation. We confess that our mind is not yet made up to recommend a change.

And beg to suggest that a good way out of the muddle will be to abolish the thing entirely. It is of no more use nor is there any more call for it than there is for a General Grand Lodge, and nobody believes in that.

Under Indiana we find some more nuggets :

We think the brother is trenching on dangerous ground. The tendency of his views, if carried out by the Templars, is calculated to create a conflict between the Lodge and the Commandery. The result of such a conflict can be easily foreseen. A structure whose foundation is destroyed must necessarily fall. The Grand Lodge does not attempt to interfere with or "legislate upon the relations of a Mason to any regular Masonic body." But it legislates upon Master Masons and their relations to the Lodge, and with each other. When a Master Mason becomes a Knight Templar he parts with none of his obligations to the Lodge, nor are any of the relations between himself and his brother Master Masons changed or affected in the least. If he was in good standing with them before, he is still in good standing. He is as much amenable to the laws of the Grand Lodge as he ever was. If he violates any of those laws his membership with the Commandery does not in the least exempt him from its consequences. Every Knight Templar being a Master Mason, one and all are alike subject to the laws of the Grand Lodge and the fact that they have congregated into a society called the Commandery gives them no immunity. It is futile to say that a Knight Templar's Masonic life cannot be destroyed without a trial, and it would be equally futile for the Grand Encampment to embody such a declaration in the statute. We believe it is outrageous, unjust and inequitable. And we may believe that a law enacted by the legislature of this State is inequitable and wrong in principle. But we are bound by it until it is repealed or declared inoperative by the proper judicial tribunal. It is so with the laws of the Grand Lodge. It has the right to make the law, to construe and enforce it. Its construction of its own laws must be respected by, not only the individual Mason, but by other Grand Lodges and other Grand Bodies. "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."

In all of which we concur, except that we don't consider it an outrage for the Grand Lodge to suit itself in its treatment of Masonic drones, who have no rights that any one is bound to respect, e. e., Masonic rights.

Under Michigan these :

Sir Knight Gerow seems to side with those who desire more coercive measures in regard to the use of alcoholic drinks. He says he believes the drink question is the separating element in all branches of Masonry, and he stands with the Apostle who said, "If meat make my weak brother to stumble and offend will eat no meat while the world standeth." That is good scripture, Sir Knight. And now take our advice when you prepare your next Christmas feast, if there be among the guests a poor dyspeptic don't set before him a fat turkey with tempting dressing, nor other rare delicacies. If you do he will be certain to suffer in this life, perhaps, in the hereafter. We have been there ourself and couldn't stand the temptation. We paid for it afterwards, and was sorry even unto repentance. Feed your guests on oat meal and water gruel.

We have not much respect for such religion or morals as has no higher principle, nor deeper root than to require the baton of a bum bailiff or the vigilance of a Pinkerton detective to sustain it. According to our theology it will be a poor ticket for admission at the gate where St. Peter is supposed to keep watch. But we will let Sir Knight Gerow answer himself—listen :

"We heard once of a good bachelor preacher in Connecticut who wanted to raise a hatching of young turkeys ; so he got a dozen of Eggs and put them in a nest, and pre-empted the services of an old gobbler he had received at his last donation. But Mr. Gobbler did not take kindly to the duty, and refused to set. The pastor, not to be beaten, conceived a happy thought and, unshipping the grindstone, he removed the axle, and drawing the gobbler's head through the hole, laid the stone on his back. This enforced bondage lasted just long enough for the astonished turk to pull his faculties together, pull his head out of the hole, and crawl from under the grindstone, which fell flat on the eggs.

"So with all enforced observances, say we."

Our Brother knows perfectly well, that there is no concord between a Christmas turkey and hell-broth : that roast turkey never wrecked a home, sent children to bed hungry and with bruised bodies, nor did it ever furnish a tenant for a drunkard's grave. We are profoundly sorry that our brother, with multitudes of others, should be an apologist for wine or intoxicants of any sort.

Bro. Elgin devotes three pages to Mississippi. He summarizes Bro. Jinkins' address, and the minutes, and pays pleasant attention to our report. We copy :

A goodly portion of his address is in the nature of a sermon in which he exhorts the Sir Knights that their names should appear on the church register and recommends the adoption of a regulation forbidding any one whose name appears on a petition recommending for the sale of spirituous liquors being admitted as a member of this Order.

The special committee to whom that part of the address was referred declined to recommend the latter suggestion as it might be considered a restriction of the liberty of conscience. But they do say it is the duty of every Sir Knight to become an active member in an "Evangelical church." It seems to us they could have simplified the question with regard to both the points by saying the Grand Encampment has declared (Sec. 3, Title XLVIII of the Code of Statutes) that no Commandery or Grand Commandery has the right to add to or take from the qualification of candidates prescribed in the constitution and Code of the Grand Encampment.

But admitting that the committee intended to advise, only, and not to legislate as to the duties of Knights Templar ; and to show wherein they would find "A wider and broader opportunity for having their 'lights so shine that others taking knowledge of their good works may glorify our Father which is in Heaven,'" the fact that they confine themselves to certain branches of the Christian church which they probably favor shows the impropriety of introducing religious topics on which good men, Christians and Knight Templars differ, into the Commandery. The Roman, the Greek and the English churches and branches in communion with them in this country are all Christian churches and have a "wider field" of operations perhaps, than any of those commonly known as "Evangelical." If the Grand Commandery can confine itself to the latter, can it not in principle select any one or more of them and say join some one of the "Presbyterian" or some one of the "Methodist" or some one of the "Baptist" faith ? Let us circumscribe our requirements only

by the broad circle of the constitution, the code and the ritual, and give the Christian conscience full scope and a broad empire.

E. J. Sir. J. L. Power, the Grand Recorder, since the death of our dear old Recorder, Sir Robert Brewster, is the oldest Grand Recorder in the United States. He had a close call last year, but by the blessing of God was spared. Let us hope he will be spared as long as our own Grand Recorder was and maintain his faculties as well.

Regarding the deliverances of the Grand Encampment above referred to, we beg to suggest to our brother that interference from this source in our domestic arrangements is not considered by us as binding, because subversive of the true principles of Christian Knighthood.

In so far as the committee's report is concerned, there was not one of them that had any desire to limit membership to "certain branches of the christian church," excepting only the Roman, for reasons which should be very plain to our brother, and to every intelligent Mason and Templar.

Webster defines "Evangelical" thusly, "According to, or contained in the Gospel," and while I am free to admit that the claims and assumptions, as well as sundry dogmas of the three bodies he names are *not* in accordance with or contained in the Gospel of our Lord, yet each of those bodies strenuously maintain that they, and they alone, are in concord with the Gospel, and are, in their estimation, at least, "Evangelical churches." Bro. Elgin knows, as well as we do, that a Roman Catholic is not a fit candidate for any degrees in Masonry or Templary, hence his show of religious tolerance is far-fetched and uncalled for. As we had occasion to intimate to Illinois, last year, the author of the report—Bro. Pax, is a little shaky on theological matters, while Phineas is a Mohammedan, and I felt too badly to write it, hence the muddle we are now in. Bro. Gil Barnard thinks we want to kick him out because he is a Universalist, and Bro. Elgin has jumped to the conclusion that we wish to bar members of the Roman, Greek and Anglican communions because they have no religion! While the committee is disposed to allow the largest measure of respect to conscientious convictions, there is no one of its members who are in favor making the Commandery a corral for whisky guzzlers or aiders, either directly or indirectly, of the sale of wines and liquors. No man who was ready to meet God in the Judgment ever put his name to a whisky petition, and never will, while in that spiritual state.

We are gratified to our brother for his kindly mention of our beloved brother Power.

Although we have given Texas a big lot of space we cannot refrain from copying the following which we find in his review of our report:

He may have found better and abler defenders of the rights of Grand Lodges, but if he will carefully examine our writings for the last few years, he will find, we think, no more zealous, earnest nor consistent advocate of the rights of the Grand Lodge than this writer. We have always held that the Grand Lodge is the Supreme Masonic authority in its Jurisdiction. That it has the power to make laws, and when made to construe and enforce them, and that no outside authority has a right to interfere therewith. We have held also that every Master Mason in the



Jurisdiction is bound by those laws whether or not he be made a member of the Chapter or Commandery. It necessarily follows, that inasmuch as we cannot sit in a Commandery without holding Masonic communication with each other, a Templar Mason's standing in the Commandery is necessarily governed by his standing in the Lodge. We further hold that no legislation of the Grand Encampment can change it without a radical change in the organization—a change that will admit a man to membership who is not a Master Mason in good standing, and will do away with Masonic intercourse between the members. If a Mason's standing is such that we are prohibited by the laws of our Grand Lodge from holding intercourse with him, and are liable to punishment for so doing, we cannot sit in a Commandery with him, we care not what the Grand Encampment may say.

In this perhaps we agree. Now as to what we differ.

While we uphold the rights of the Grand Lodge to enact such laws as its constitution allows, we hold there are some rights which the citizen has in the State and which the Mason has in the Lodge, of which, if not protected by the constitution, he may be unjustly and tyrannically deprived. One of these is the right to a fair trial, to be confronted by his witnesses and to make his defense. In the State the accused, whether great or weak, rich or poor, guilty or innocent, is guaranteed those rights. It is a principle of justice. An order that has justice emblazoned on its shield, as Masonry has, ought by no means to deny this boon to every member.

We therefore hold that any law which deprives a Mason of his rights as such and dissolves the bonds that unites him to his brethren without a trial, without notice and without an opportunity to confront his witnesses and make a defense is unjust and tyrannical, and therefore unmasonic.

It is not a matter of sympathy any more than the passage of a law, by the legislature, that gives a murderer a fair trial is an evidence of sympathy with the criminal.

Now we suggest this as a solution of the difficulty. It may not be possible to get the Grand Lodge to adopt the suggestion, but we think the Templars of the State might work for it. Mississippi having enacted that non-affiliation is a Masonic offense, if the Grand Lodge will by edict require that the Lodges prefer charges against non-affiliates in their respective Jurisdictions; try and punish them just as they do for other offenses—such as swindling, theft, drunkenness and other unmasonic conduct, punishing each one according to what the Lodge may think right, with the usual rights of appeal to and revision by the Grand Lodge, all cause for Templar legislation will be obviated, and ten so-called "drones" in the Masonic hive reformed, restored to the Lodge and made valuable members to where there is one under the present system.

Far be it from us to dictate, we only express what are our honest sentiments.

It is not improbable that the plan suggested would be a good one and we submit it for your consideration.

R.: E.: Sir L. T. Noyes is Grand Commander; E.: Sir J. C. Kidd is Grand Recorder, and R.: E.: Sir Robt. M. Elgin, Reporter.

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#### WYOMING—1897.

The Tenth Annual was held in Green River, May 12. Present: Sir Andrew J. Parshall, Grand Commander, Jno. C. Baird, Grand Recorder, two Past Grand Commanders; six of the staff were absent.

The address is short and is devoted entirely to matters of local import. He reports the Order as being exceptionally prosperous, the net gain in membership being 57, or 21  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.

It is to be hoped that the character of the new membership may be commensurate in excellence with the per centage of increase. He made no decisions, but issued two dispensations for new Commanderies, which was better.

The proceedings were of local interest only. Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of \$813.98. Grand Recorder's report shows total membership to be 319. The session closed with a banquet, when a good time was had.

Past Grand Commander and Grand Recorder Jno. C. Baird, is the architect of the Correspondence, which covers 40 pages and digests the minutes of 42 Templar Grand Bodies. Mississippi for 1896 among the rest. Though short, Bro. Baird's report is an exceptionally good one and our only regret is that our distinguished Brother don't give us a hundred instead of forty pages.

He opens his report on our pamphlet thusly :

It so happens that the proceedings of the Grand Commandery of this State are at the bottom of the pile for review. But Mississippi is here all right, which is more than can be said for Wyoming in the volume which now lies before us. We plead guilty to sensitiveness, for it is indeed a sorrow to be omitted from such an excellent report as that of Sir DeLap, either from intention or neglect; if from the former, that we should have incurred the distinguished Sir Knight's displeasure, or in the latter case, that we should prove of so slight consequence as to be utterly ignored.

Rev. Sir Irvin Miller delivered a splendid discourse which appears in full, and which is well worthy of reproduction, if space were available.

Sir F. P. Jenkins, the R. E. Grand Commander, is a Templar of the right mould. He says that numerically "Templarism is not progressing in this State as we should like to see it."

We desire to assure Bro. Baird that it was not our fault that Wyoming was left out. On the contrary, it is one of our favorites and will always have attention, especially while he wields the reportorial and recording pen.

We beg to correct the Correspondent by suggesting that Bro. Miller simply *read* the sermon, which was prepared by Grand Prelate T. W. Lewis, who was unavoidably absent. Our beloved Bro. Miller can preach an admirable sermon, but he was not the author of the one Bro. Baird so highly commends. Both Bros. Miller and Lewis are Methodists and, per consequence, ought to be able to preach good sermons. The Church is remarkable for its wealth of great minds--we are a Methodist.

Under New Hampshire we find these :

Sir Robert was evidently much disturbed mentally as to the status of the Presidential campaign at the time of delivering his address, for he says: "These are times of peril and anxiety, and it is necessary that every man's heart should be right, every man's head be cool, every man's hand be strong;" and the Sir Knight might well have added : and

every man's vote be right. Inasmuch as New Hampshire came out all right, we trust that there is no cloud to dim the otherwise bright horizon of New Hampshire.

We infer from the closing paragraph that Bro. Baird is a Republican or Gold Democrat—synonymous terms, and is of those who hold to the singular doctrine that increase in taxes is a remedy for hard times. It is needless for us to say that we can't see it by those lamps.

The Sir Knight speaks of having asked permission for one of his Commanderies to enter the jurisdiction of Maine, and in turn granted permission for several Commanderies of other States to enter his jurisdiction. He naively adds: "I am aware that objection is made to this usage, and that in some quarters it is ridiculed. I hope, however, that it may be maintained simply because it affords an opportunity for an interchange of courtesies."

We might suggest that the interchange of courtesies could be carried on without the nonsense of one Grand Commandery asking permission of another to enter its jurisdiction. It can well be understood how such a courtesy would be proper over the Canadian border, but in a republic of Commanderies like those of the United States, it does seem out of place that there should be such a thing required as permission to visit back and forth among the States composing the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment.

We heartily concur in the suggestions and what follows, of course. We copy his closing in full:

It will be noticed that there is no distinct and important issue before the corps reportorial during the year's correspondence just reviewed. The questions that formerly prompted eager and intelligent discussion have been either settled or relegated to the rear. And while Sir Hedges' proposition for the redemption of Armenia is still as prominent as ever, in his view, the failure of the Christian peoples of the Eastern Hemisphere to do anything for the oppressed Christians, and the non-intervention policy of the United States, robs the otherwise burning question of its fire. It has come to that pass in history when nation no longer takes up the sword against nation in the name of Christ and humanity. The present age is utilitarian, devoted to luxury and ease, contented with self-comfort and indifferent to the woes of the oppressed and down-trodden of distant climes. How unlike the chivalrous spirit of the famed Hugh de Payens and the illustrious band of chief Templars that followed him. Strange, that Knight Templary, originated on holy soil by and through Europeans pledged to the cause of Christianity, should in these latter days find its greatest strength in the new world which was not even known to civilization until centuries after the august institution of the Order of Palestine. But territorial aggrandizement and political greed have, like so many cancers, eaten their way into the body politic in Europe, while the balance of the world stands in awe at their pusillanimous fear of applying the knife to the cancerous growth.

R. E. Sir David H. Craig is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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#### WEST VIRGINIA—1897.

The 23rd Annual Conclave was held in the city of Wheeling, May 12th. Present: R. E. Sir Jno. C. Riheldaffer, Grand Commander; Sir R.

C. Dunnington, Grand Recorder; the entire staff, 7 Past Grand Commanders, other Past Grand Officers, and Past Eminent Commanders and delegates from 11 Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is a short but elegant paper, but treats almost entirely of local matters. We clip from his opening "chorus :"

We trust that in the renewal of old, and the formation of new friendships, in the deliberations of our meetings, and participation in the festivities connected therewith, you may one and all find something of interest and enjoyment in every minute of your sojourn in our midst.

"Sirs, you are welcome to our home,  
It must appear in other ways than words;  
Therefore, I scan this breathing courtesy."

The events of another twelve months have passed into history, and those of special interest to this Grand Body will soon be reviewed for a final recording. Matters of present moment must also be considered. and legislation enacted looking to the future welfare of our beloved Order.

It is now my duty to submit for your approval or disapproval a detailed, but necessarily brief, report of my official acts during the last Templar year. And I may preface the report with a statement that peace and harmony have prevailed in this Grand Jurisdiction, and there has crossed my path not a shadow of dissension or disagreement. There has come to my knowledge not a single grievance, while to me discord has been a stranger. We may congratulate ourselves that this is so, and also that we have grown and prospered.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the courteous dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions. His dispensations were all for wise purposes. He made but two decisions, one being being correct, the other a little shaky. We quote the latter in full:

*Rt. Em. Sir John C. Riheldaffer, Grand Commander, Wheeling, W. Va.:*

DEAR FRATER—At a stated Conclave of Crusade Commandery, No. 6, held on the 23d inst., I was directed to ask your decision or ruling upon the following: Companion A. B., who was rejected by this Commandery about seven months ago, again filed his petition for the orders of Knighthood, after which, and before the time of ballot, he moved permanently from this jurisdiction to that of Pennsylvania.

Question—Does he not properly belong to Pennsylvania, or can Crusade ballot, and if elected, confer the orders on him without the consent of the Commandery under whose jurisdiction he now resides?

WHEELING, W. VA., November 26, 1896.

MY DEAR FRATER—Your favor of the 24th inst. presents a somewhat complicated and perplexing question, embracing as it does several propositions. If the first is answered affirmatively it necessarily negatives the second and disposes of the last. I am not prepared to say, however, that Companion A. B. properly belongs to Pennsylvania, as he has been there so short a time, and by the ruling I shall make on your second proposition he will still occupy the position of a rejected candidate, and cannot apply elsewhere without the unanimous consent of Crusade Commandery. See Title XXXIV, sec. 5.

Title XLV, sec. 10, reads, "When a petition has been presented to a Commandery, it cannot be withdrawn unless it shall appear that the Commandery has not jurisdiction over the petitioner."

I take it for granted that there was no question of jurisdiction when the petition was presented to the Commandery, else it was improperly

received, but the Commandery, having been apprised of the petitioner's permanent removal *before ballot was spread*, the question of jurisdiction becomes at least doubtful, and I am of the opinion that the section quoted is applicable in this case, and therefore rule that Crusade Commandery has not jurisdiction over Companion A. B., whose petition should be withdrawn.

It occurs to us that "Crusade Commandery," having rejected the applicant has perpetual jurisdiction, no matter if he moves to the moon or takes passage for illimitable space on a comet. We note, however, that the Law Committee endorsed the decision. That fact, though, does not change our opinion at all, strange as it may seem. An elegant portrait of an elegant and handsome gentleman, the R. E., forms the frontispiece.

Reports were also made by the three principal officers of the staff, from all of which we learn that the Order is in a satisfactory condition in that State.

The proceedings were routine and local. Grand Treasurer reports a balance on hand of \$658.00. Grand Recorder reports total membership 937, a gain of 59. We note also that the sum of one hundred dollars was made the annual compensation for the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. A wise and eminently just provision.

And this in regard to "Old Glory :"

R. E. Sir W. W. VanWinkle offered the following, which was adopted :

WHEREAS, most of the Grand Commanderies have prescribed the regulation United States flag to be carried with the "Christian's Cross," the symbol of our faith, marked on our banners, together with the beauseant.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to purchase for this Grand Commandery a regulation silk flag of the United States, to be carried and displayed with the banner of our faith and the beauseant.

*Resolved*, That each Commandery in this Jurisdiction, that has not already done so, do procure a regulation silk United States flag, which may be displayed in the Asylum or when on public parade.

Bro. W. W. VanWinkle is the architect of an admirable Correspondence report, which covers 97 pages and digests the transactions of 42 Templar governing bodies, in an interesting and courteous style. Brother Van devotes but one and a half pages to Mississippi for 1896 and in that limited space records what strikes him as being of interest to his constituents, while to the Canucks he gives 9 full pages.—No sign that he loves us less, but indicative that "he loves Hannah more!" However, what our brother has to say is well and pleasantly said and we are not kicking to hurt. When we are President of these United States and have annexed the Canucks, which will be our first official act, they will then no longer be foreigners and per consequence objects of adoration for Anglo-maniacs. We copy his closing :

In the preceding pages we have not attempted to criticise or take part in any discussion, but simply attempt to present a review of the several reports received, noting such matters only that we thought might be of interest to the fraters in this Jurisdiction. We trust our work will be appreciated and criticism charitable.

This is our first effort. We are conscious of imperfections, emphasized by comparison with reports of former committees. We indulged the assumption this was an easy task, and postponed work until ten days ago. We were woefully mistaken: since we have been prodigal with the "midnight oil," scanning upwards of 6,400 pages of printed proceedings, culling from addresses, committee reports, statistical tables, etc., the "meat" in them. If we have extracted it even partially to your satisfaction we will be contented.

Sir Lewis N. Tavenull is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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WASHINGTON—1897.

The Tenth Annual was held in the city of Tacoma, June 2. There were present: Sir Geo. E. Dickson, R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Yancey C. Blalock, Grand Recorder, 8 Past Grand Commanders, 10 Past Commanders, 20 Grand Representatives, not including ours and representatives from all of the nine Subordinate Commanderies. Welcoming address and response, both somewhat eloquent and humorous, preceded the opening. Sirs Fogg and Weatherwax were the orators. The first kept out of the fog and the other waxed warm especially in his peroration which we copy:

Lives there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said  
While at the sacred fount  
'Tis not Rainer, the fellow lies,  
But bold Tacoma now he cries,  
She's our glorious mount;

Now shout ye gallant yeomen who  
For Mount Tacoma stood so true,  
No other name she'll bear,  
And just as long as we are here,  
Seattle shall not shout Rainer,  
Of that we freely swear.

All hail now to this gallant band,  
Who for Tacoma take their stand,  
No man shall say ye nay,  
For well ye know that rain or shine  
Bold Mount Tacoma still is thine,  
As that's the proper way.

Tho' seized with oratoric pangs,  
Palsy my tongue or bust my bangs,  
If this fair city can  
Be shorn of such a brilliant gem,  
By any sich a chump as Kem,  
With sea Atilla's clan.

At last accounts the author of this gem was still alive.

□ The Grand Commander's address is quite lengthy but is almost entirely devoted to local matters. He issued but few dispensations and

these for practical purposes. Among his "decisions" we find the following muddle of inconsistencies :

On September 28, 1896, I received from E. Sir Yancey C. Blalock the following telegram :

"Can Templar suspended for dues in Chapter, not declared suspended in Commandery, receive Templar burial? Answer."

To which I wire as follows :

"Yes. Title 23, sections 3, 4, 5 govern case."

In addition to answering by wire I mailed the following letter in reference to the matter :

ELLENSBURGH, WASH., September 26, 1896.

Sir Yancey C. Blalock, Walla Walla, Wash.:

EMINENT SIR AND FRATER—I received from you this evening a telegram worded as follows: "Can Templar suspended for dues in Chapter, not declared suspended in Commandery, receive Templar burial? Answer." To which I wired you the following answer: "Yes. Title 23, sections 3, 4, 5 govern the case."

I call your attention to the Constitution and Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment, Title 23, which bears directly upon this matter.

Section 2 states clearly that expulsion or suspension from his Masonic rights by a Lodge or Chapter deprives a Knight of all rights and privileges in his Commandery, and of all intercourse with the Order; yet, by reading sections 3, 4, and 5 of same Title you will observe that certain formalities must have been taken by the Commandery before his legal standing therein is affected, viz: "A certificate of the Chapter of its action should be filed with the Recorder of the Commandery, and a minute should be made of the reception of such certificate and of its legal effects, to-wit: That the Knight is thereby divested of his Knightly rank and of all its privileges. The certificate of the Chapter must not only show the fact of suspension, but also that the body had jurisdiction. If the certificate of the facts cannot be obtained from the Secretary of the Chapter they may be proved by oral testimony."

If the records of the Commandery show that the Knight is in good standing, no certificate has been filed showing his suspension by the Chapter, neither has any evidence been offered before the Commandery, either oral or written, to show that he has been suspended, then I am of the opinion that he is in good standing in his Commandery, and as such would be entitled to Templar burial.

We would like to inquire why the knowledge of the individual's status in his Chapter, which the Commandery, or its Commander had, was not a sufficient notice to make the statute operate? It seems to us that this would have been a much more rational conclusion and the spectacle of a Commandery of Templars burying a *suspended* Royal Arch Mason would have been avoided. However, the Law Committee and the Body approved the decision, and as it seems to suit their taste we shall not complain.

The proceedings, like the address, are devoid of general interest. The Order seems to be in a healthy state. The total membership is 626, which is a gain of 22. A portrait of the R. E. makes an elegant frontispiece to the pamphlet.

The report on Correspondence is the 6th of Grand Recorder Blalock, covers 97 pages and digests the doings of most of the Templar Grands, in his usual courteous style. Our pamphlet for 1896 gets a page and a

half, made up of excerpts from the minutes. The only original matter we find in it follows: "We will say, Sir DeLap, we are not on exhibition and we acknowledge our ignorance, but do not wish to see too much of it on paper, as it *looks bad*" (*Italics his'n*). We pass! Our Brother has made out his case. We clip his "Conclusion."

We had intended to include in our report all proceedings received up to the time of sending our proceedings to press, but as our appropriation for printing is somewhat limited are compelled to lay them aside until next year. We have spoken plain at times, but think we are in the right, and hence have no apology to offer at present. If convinced to the contrary in future will endeavor to make amends. It is hard for us to refrain from making comments, rather leaving them to be made by our readers, and giving the "news" as found in the proceedings reviewed.

The times in which he has "spoken plain," in this report, are not sufficiently numerous to hurt, so our brother can rest reasonably easy in the assumption that there are no casualties resultant from those "plain words."

Brother Jacob Weatherwax is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### WISCONSIN—1897.

The Thirty-Ninth Annual Conclave was held in the city of Milwaukee, October 12th and 13th. There were present: Sir Edmond C. Deane, Grand Commander; Sir Jno. W. Laffin, Grand Recorder: six Past Grand Commanders, six other Past Grand Officers, six Past Commanders, twenty-one Grand Representatives, and delegates from twenty-seven Subordinate Commanderies—all but one of the entire list.

The address is a business paper, well written, but confined, mostly, to local matters. Eloquent and deserved tribute is paid to the memory and merit of the magnanimous dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions. He appointed inspectors and the duty was well performed. A partial synopsis of their reports is copied to show the condition of affairs in that jurisdiction:

In nearly all of the Commanderies, the rendition of the ritual is reported good; in several of them excellent and impressive. In many Commanderies, the asylum tactics are reported poor, showing need of practice in opening ceremonies. In this latter particular eight are marked fair, three good, two creditable, three excellent and one perfect: remainder, deficient in tactics and drill.

Fifteen Commanderies occupy buildings owned in whole or in part by Masonic Bodies.

The financial showing of the Commanderies is excellent. Nearly all report a balance of money or property on the credit side—of sums ranging from a few hundred to \$20,000, and with but a few exceptions, no debt worthy of mention is reported.

As a rule, the books of the Recorders are kept in a methodical business-like manner, and in some cases the records are models of the book-keeper's art.

The uniforms generally conform to the regulations and are in good con-



dition. With one exception, the uniforms and paraphernalia are kept well insured, a most commendable practice.

The weakest point shown by these reports seems to be a neglect of practice in the tactics of the asylum, thus marring the beauty and interest of the opening ceremony. This with poor attendance and inattention to the matter of clothing worn at the Conclaves, are most subject to criticism, and should have special attention from officers of Commanderies.

He issued a number of dispensations, but all for practical purposes. He refused to grant a dispensation for a new Commandery at Oconomowoc, fearing it would prove a sickly infant for lack of proper nourishment. He made no decisions. From his concluding remarks we excerpt the following:

During the year my best thoughts and energy have been devoted to Templarism, and in surrendering the trust I am conscious that I have done simply my duty to the extent of my abilities, having ever in view the unity, purity and increase of our beloved Brotherhood.

The Sir Knight to whom shall pass the insignia of this high office will assume no easy task. In this Order we are all peers, all equals, and he who assumes to govern must bring from his storehouse of good intentions the wisdom of the serpent and the mildness of the dove. The hand that rules should be gloved with fortitude undaunted, while justice impartial guides and unrestrained mercy controls.

Standing constantly in the white light of our beautiful and historic banners, those glorious principles which, dating from the Crusades, have stood for the purity, heroism and majesty reflected in the life of our blessed Immanuel—whose we are and whom we serve—those glorious principles shining forth will have for him more than ordinary significance as he realizes as never before the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man.

I ask the full measure of your kindness for him, and as we go forth into another year, engaged in the active duties and responsibilities of life, may it, my dear fraters, be ours to fill the measure of our lives with usefulness, with purer motives, brighter hopes, and the personal consciousness of the Divine approval.

We are inclined to think that the selection of an average Crusader as a model of piety and moral worth, would be a great mistake. The Roman church has been blamed and cursed for suppressing the Order of the Temple, and yet we all know that in its days of greatest prosperity and at the time when the Pope sat on it, it was as rotten and corrupt, as unholy and wicked as hell. The fact that the suppressing power was no better, cuts no figure—both *should* have been wiped out.

The proceedings are of a local character mostly. Tennessee sent in, for endorsement, a set of resolutions denouncing the use, by other orders and societies, of the Maltese Cross as an emblem, it being peculiarly the property of our Order. The resolutions appeal to the Central Body to devise some means to stop the practice, etc.

The Wisconsin Brethren considering it more dignified to remain quiet, declined to take part in the crusade against these cheap imitators of our Order. No doubt mature reflection will convince our brethren of Tennessee that this is the wisest course. Agitation of the subject will only result in giving these purloiners of our emblems increased notoriety, which is what they desire.

Reports of Grand Recorder and Treasurer show the Order in the Badger Balliwick to be in good shape, financially and otherwise. Total membership 2965, a gain of 63. The Treasurer has a balance of over \$3,000.00, and yet they pay Swain only \$50 for his admirable and exceptionally good reports on Correspondence produce. We are somewhat ashamed of our native State. Double the allowance at least, brethren.

This brings us down to Bro. Swain's report in which the minutes of 42 Templar Legislatures are carefully digested and note made of salient features.

Under California and speaking of Bro. Speed's Grand Encampment resolutions, he says :

If the above proposition is brought into Grand Encampment, we think there will be music by the whole band and along the line. There is a good deal of complaint in General Grand Chapter that it is a body without power, and an attempt to reduce the Grand Encampment to the same condition might lead to rebellion.

Let the band play "Annie Rooney," "Old Grimes is Dead," or anything else they please ! It will scare nobody, and if the concern feels disposed to rebel, why, just let 'em and we will squelch the rebellion by wiping out that extremely unnecessary appendage of Templary—the Grand Encampment. There never was a demand in the interest of the Orders of Knighthood for a Supreme, National Body, any more than there is, or has been, for a General Grand Lodge, and the sooner the Grand Encampment and the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council are abolished, the better it will be for the three Orders.

Under Georgia we find the following, much of which we endorse, but are disposed to demur to the claim—that "a clergyman is too apt to give a *routine* effect to his work."

That the proposition is true of such preachers as are "money-called and devil-sent" to the work of the ministry, I am free to admit, but wherever you find a preacher of the Gospel whose credentials have the stamp of God's approval, you find one whose service at the altar, or in holy things, anywhere, is never perfunctory or routine. The impressiveness and effect of the ritual of the Prelate's office upon a candidate is governed to a large extent by the moral and Christian life and character of the person officiating. If your Prelate is neither really moral, pious or honest, or is lacking in either of these, his rendition of the ritual will be more likely to excite disgust in the mind of the candidate, than tears in his eyes. But here is what Bro. William says :

While there is a good point in his suggestion that a clergyman should, when possible, fill the position of Prelate, in our experience we have found the work generally better done by laymen. Emmons Taylor, of this Jurisdiction, who died some twenty-three years ago, while filling the office of Grand Commander, never failed, as Prelate, to bring tears to the eyes of the candidate, and he was a lawyer. A clergyman is too apt to give a *routine* effect to his work.

Our Bro. William devotes but two pages to our pamphlet for 1897—don't say a word about Bro. Buchanan's really excellent address, but quotes Bro. Fred's resolutions anent the Grand Encampment, prefacing

the quotation thus: "Our friend Fred Speed offered the following, which was adopted, but we doubt its going much further." Perhaps it won't, but if not, the fact will reflect no credit upon the judgment of the Templars of this country.

Referring to our proposition to locate the Grand Encampment in Alaska, he says:

"After it is located there, Bro. D., there will be no danger of Templar emblems being worn by the demimonde, because they won't be there; but their absence will tempt you to again 'make the pilgrimage,' and what will you do in that cold climate without whisky? There is a place where a 'hot scotch' is good in the stomach."

Our friend seems to forget that the furnishing of the different State headquarters at Triennials, is largely composed of the ingredients which compose a "hot scotch," and that all wants along these lines, real and imaginary, are fully provided for. We beg also to assume here that personally, the matter of what the demi-monde wears, or whether they wear anything on these occasions, cuts no figure in reference to our presence at or absence from these gatherings.

Bro. Swain does not take kindly to what he terms the "Temperance fad," or to the position of California and Mississippi on "Dependent Membership," and we are sorry he does not, particularly the former, which is a matter affecting both the temporal and eternal interests of mankind. He calls it a "fad," because it runs counter to his opinions and prejudices, and not because he does feel in his heart that the defenders of the "fad" are right and its enemies wrong.

He closes his excellent report with two excerpts. The first from the address of a lawyer to a convention of that profession, in which he deprecates the proneness of humanity to endeavor to literally legislate people into Heaven, compel them by law to be sober, temperate, honest and good, in all of which we concur.

Since Adam's transgression the tendency of the race has been to go after and break their necks to get what the law says they must not touch, hence it would be better to reverse the order of legislation and make it a misdemeanor for people to abstain from wickedness of all kinds and especially to be pious and members of the church of God. Judging the future by the past, such a line of conduct would improve things wonderfully.

The second is our Bro. Berry's "conclusion" to his report, which William appropriates bodily, saying: "The 'conclusion' of Berry of Maine, is good enough for us, and we adopt it, *and in future years will claim we wrote it.*" (Italics ours.) Here is Berry's *finis*:

In one of our Cumberland county conventions the slate was broken by a country delegate who introduced a new candidate with such an admirable speech that he carried him in triumphantly. When congratulated on his oratory, he said: A speech should have a good beginning, a good ending, and not much between!" A good ending is not easily found for these reports, but we remember the wise remark of the California uncle to the little boy who was writing a composition on the Unicorn. "Uncle

Bob," said the boy, "Has the Unicorn a tassel on the end of his tail?" "When you get to the end," replied Uncle Bob, why don't you stop?"

Sir Chas. E. Rogers is R. E. Grand Commander ; Sir Jno. W. Laffin Grand Recorder, R. E. Wm. C. Swain, Correspondent.

#### VERMONT—1897.

Fifty-fifth Annual was held in the city of Burlington, June 8th. There were present: Sir Robt. J. Wright, R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Warren G. Reynolds, Grand Recorder; the entire staff, Six Past Grand Commanders, three Deputy Grand Commanders, 28 Grand Representatives, including Bro. Squier for Mississippi, and delegates from 10 Subordinates. The Grand Commander's address, though quite long, is confined exclusively to local matters, most of it being made up of reports of inspections made by himself and staff, of the different Subordinate Commanderies. These reports indicate a fair measure of prosperity in the Order. He issued but few dispensations and those for proper purposes. Being Vermontically patriotic he issued the following:

#### STATE OF VERMONT.

#### *Grand Commandery Knights Templar.*

OFFICE OF THE GRAND COMMANDER, }  
NEWPORT, VT., April 28, 1897. }

#### General Orders No. 3.

I. The several Subordinate Commanderies within this jurisdiction, are hereby granted permission to accept the invitations of Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, within the State, to perform escort duty on Memorial Day, May 29 prox., and appear in uniform. For so doing this shall be their sufficient warrant.

ROBERT J. WRIGHT, Grand Commander.

Attest:

WARREN G. REYNOLDS, Grand Recorder.

It is a matter of surprise to us how our Vermont brethren, hightoned and intensely loyal as they are to the National Government, can reconcile this annual violation of the law of the Grand Encampment, prohibiting Templar parades in uniform on occasions not Masonic or Templar in their character, with the eternal fitness of things and the proprieties. No doubt they can do it, but the question is—*how?*

He made but one decision, which he does not quote. One new Commandery started under dispensation.

The proceedings are mostly local. We find this, however, in the report of Committee on Doings of Grand Officers: "The official acts of the R. E. Grand Commander during the past year having been made in strict accordance with the statutes of the Order, meet our hearty approval."

How about General Orders No. 2 quoted above? Had the Committee stated that his acts were in accord with custom in Vermont, that would have been all right, but when they say that authority to act as escort to

a Grand Army Post on Decoration Day, or any other day, is in consonance with the statutes of the "Order" they simply state what is not true, that is all. Not that they have the slightest idea of misrepresenting facts, but are simply mistaken and not as careful as they should be.

We also find that our Representative, Bro. Geo. W. Squiers, presented a "communication from the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, which was read by the Grand Recorder," and "on motion of R. E. Kittredge Haskins it was referred to the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence, to make report at the next Annual Conclave, and the Grand Recorder was ordered to acknowledge receipt of same." We presume this "communication" contained Bro. Speed's resolutions anent the Grand Encampment.

The Order is in a healthy state. Total membership 1499, a gain of 41. The Treasury is in good shape also.

Correspondence is the fourth effort of our good friend Past Grand Commander Kittredge Haskins, and like his other literary productions, is first-class. We copy his opening chorus:

Your Committee on Correspondence herewith submit their fourth annual report. A list of the proceedings received and reviewed will be found at the close of this report. Templar law is so well defined and is so thoroughly understood by the officers of the several Grand Jurisdictions that we find but little to criticize in the few decisions promulgated during the year, for as a general rule they are correct. In writing up our review, we have not undertaken to create issues, or to force our individual opinion upon others, but rather to inform our readers, in the limited space allowed us, of the more important transactions occurring in sister Jurisdictions. We trust our efforts in this behalf will be found not without merit, and that a careful perusal of our report will prove of essential benefit to the members of our Order. It is the sincere desire of your Committee that every Templar in this jurisdiction may find time to read and inwardly digest what we write. Peace and prosperity reign throughout the Templar world and that it may so continue for all time to come is our earnest prayer. With knightly greetings to all, we review in alphabetical order such proceedings as have come to hand.

We have no doubt, Bro. Haskins, but that the intelligence of the Order in the Green Mountain State will appreciate your efforts. The other fellows do not count.

The report covers seventy-three pages and considers the doings of forty-one Templar Legislatures, Mississippi for 1896 among the number. Under California we find this:

Under title of "Decisions," he writes as follows:

The ballot is a secret and sacred right, and I know of no way in which the use of the ballot can be inquired into.

There can be no question but that the exercise of this sacred right of a Knight Templar to gratify any prejudice or personal ill-will against a Companion whose application is being considered, or of the exercise of any spirit of revenge towards the applicant, or any ill-will towards the Commandery itself, or any spirit of hostility to the growth and prosperity of the Commandery, or to be revenged for any supposed or real slight of the Commandery to a Sir Knight, would not justify him in casting a black ball against a Companion every way worthy, and whose accession to the Commandery would be beneficial.

It does not seem possible that one who has listened to the lectures of a

Knight Templar, taken its solemn obligations, entered into the spirit of its lofty ideas, could through any personal envy, prejudice or spite, use the sacred right of the ballot for any injury of the applicant or the Commandery to which he belongs.

The foregoing is as true as the Gospel. The trouble all comes from the "fellers" who have never "entered into the spirit of the lofty ideas" and teachings, and we fear never will. Men with eyes wrongly focused from birth manage to get admitted into all societies and orders, and when they once get in we usually have to endure them. "Guard well the portals."

"All this we steadfastly believe" to be true.

Under Maine these :

Writing on the subject of dimit and non-affiliation, he says :

Let it be understood that if a Mason wishes to go out he can go freely. If he elects to support a part and not the whole, allow him to do so.

That is right. Masonry is a voluntary institution. The receiving of the several Orders is a voluntary act on the part of both the candidate and the Lodge, Chapter or Commandery. His withdrawal from one or all is equally so. The condition of membership in the several Masonic bodies, is entirely unlike that of the State to the Federal Union. A Mason cannot, lawfully, be coerced into a continuation of his membership. If he is in good standing and desires to "secede" we are bound, by the very nature of our institution, to let him "slide." And it is entirely wrong to say that such an one shall retain his membership in *all* or none.

Yes, "Masonry is a voluntary institution." Unfortunately, however our good brother forgets that among other "voluntary" features of the entrance into the Order we voluntarily pledge ourselves to maintain and support, always, the resolutions and edicts of the supreme governing body in the jurisdiction of which we may reside, etc.

There is no objection to his sliding or seceding whenever the notion strikes him, but there is objection to his forgetting solemn engagements that were voluntarily entered into and that only cease when death closes his career. "Once a Mason, always a Mason," while a trite is none the less a true saying, and so long as a man is a Mason just so long is he in honor bound to remember and keep his Masonic vows. A Mason who claims exemption from such obligations for any reason save inability to perform them, is unworthy of the name and is entitled to less consideration than an *honest* profane.

Our good Bro. Kittredge's review of Mississippi for 1896 is full, fraternal and pleasant. We copy as follows :

The following, which we excerpt from the address, is a little too drastic for the times, as we think :

Now as Templars, our names should be on the church register ; but should not be recorded on a petition to retail vinous and spirituous liquors to be used as a beverage. The Grand Lodge of this and sister States have said that no saloon-keeper shall be a Mason ; let Christian Templars go one step farther, and say, any one whose name appears upon a petition recommending its sale should not be admitted in our Asylums or receive any of the rights and benefits derived from an institution whose grand characteristics are the defence of the Christian religion and the practice of the Christian rites.

We would rejoice to see the name of every Sir Knight borne on the

roll of some church register, but we would not make that a pre-requisite to membership in our Templar body. We have personal acquaintance with many Sir Knights not connected with any church organization by way of membership who lead moral and upright lives and are an honor and blessing to the community in which they live, and connection with the church would make them no better citizens or men. On the other hand, we may be permitted to say that, we know of Sir Knights whose names are borne on the "church register," that are none the better men or Masons by reason of it. In saying this we are not writing one word against the church, for we believe in it, heart and soul. And, while we are an advocate of temperance, believe in and practice it, still it is our opinion that those Grand Lodges of which he speaks have gone too far, and departed widely from Ancient Craft Masonry. It is simply "Modernized Masonry" in those particular jurisdictions. We are taught that "it is the internal qualifications of a man that should recommend him to be made a Mason. It is the *man* and not the *occupation* that we should look to when a candidate presents himself at our doors. Masonry, as we know it, is a *speculative* and not an *operative* institution, and as such there can be no arbitrary line of demarcation drawn upon the basis of occupation alone, without infringing well recognized landmarks of the Order.

Neither would Bro. Jinkins make church membership a prerequisite to admission into the Order. His idea, yours, ours and every other man's is that a notoriously ungodly man is out of his place in a Commandery of Christian gentlemen.

We have known members of a church or churches, who drink whisky, commit adultery, fornication, swear like pirates and raise hell generally, all of which proves that church membership alone is not a specific for cussedness nor a desirable preparation for membership in our Order.

We cannot concur in Bro. Kittredge's ideas anent "Modernized Masonry." We also quote his review of our report:

The Correspondence report is the sixteenth by R. E. Sir E. G. DeLap, and is a review of the proceedings of thirty-seven Grand Bodies. His report is interesting, sharp but courteous. True, he occasionally indulges in bits of sarcasm and pungent allusions to that which others have said or written, still he is always forbearing and forgiving.

We agree with Bro. DeLap, that the suspension of a member of a Lodge for a cause which deprives him of the *rights and privileges* of Masonry, deprives him of the privilege of sitting in Chapter and Commandery. But we cannot agree that voluntary non-affiliation in Lodge, for any length of time, can deprive him of his Chapter and Commandery membership and rights. A Grand Lodge law or regulation that seeks to accomplish the latter is contrary to the whole spirit of Masonry, and never should be recognized anywhere. With an army of one hundred and twelve thousand Knights Templar, and more than eight hundred thousand Master Masons in the United State alone, all this talk about "non-contributors" and "Masonic drones" has altogether too much of the *mercenary* about it. It doesn't sound well. The position of our Mississippi brethren, to use your own phrase, My dear Frater, is "too thin," neither "will it wash" well.

His review of Vermont, and his allusions to the writer (Haskins, not Hoskins) are pleasant, though he is not in harmony with us in all things.

For the purpose of denying that there is anything "mercenary" about trying to compel the drones and dead-beats of Masonry to wake up and do their duty. Neither is a law made for this purpose contrary to the "spirit of Masonry," but is in perfect harmony with it.

Referring again to his critique of Bro. Jenkins' address, quoted above, we wish to inquire whether Bro. Kittredge is in the habit of inviting bar-tenders and saloon keepers, or whisky sellers generally, to his home as fit associates for his wife, sons and daughters? If no, *then* the "occupation" seems to cut some sort of figure in meeting the behests of "*society*," and if it means anything *then* it certainly *should* be considered in connection with membership in moral or religious Orders. We are inclined to think that Bro. Kittredge has fallen off the Christmas Tree and that *his* fulmination along here *will fade in the wash*.

There are lots of good things in Bro. Kittredge's report, but we have already filled the space allotted to Vermont and must quit.

Grand Commander, Grand Recorder and Correspondent all continued for another year.

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### CONCLUSION.

Having arrived at the end and finished our work, we submit it for your inspection. It would be pleasant to know that it meets your approval, but if you fail to see it in the light of approbation, we shall still retain the consciousness of having made an earnest effort to do well.

The signs of the time indicate a growing interest, in many Jurisdictions, in Templar Masonry, and there seems also to be an increased attention to the sublime principles and elevating teachings of the Institution. That there is room for a large measure of improvement in the moral and spiritual condition of many of the members of the Order, there can be no doubt, and if we, as a moral power, expect to better the world by our existence in it, it will be in order for us to commence the campaign in our own ranks, and, having corrected our own unworthiness, we can more consistently engage in outside missionary work. Example is always a better teacher than precept, and it is always good form to keep our own front yards clean.

Death has taken some of the brightest and best among us, during the year. Many Jurisdictions mourn the loss of one or more Past Grand Commanders, the mortality among these brethren and other past and present Grand Officers being above the average. Past Grand Master J. Q. A. Fellows passed across the divide near the close of the year, after a life of honor and usefulness, loved and esteemed by a host of friends. At the time of his death he was chairman of the Correspondence Committee of the Grand Commandery of Louisiana, and had reflected credit upon himself and honor upon Louisiana by his distinguished labors in that field. His place in our hearts and in the literature and intellectuality of Templary will be hard to fill. There are others distinguished in their own Jurisdictions and as Past Grand Officers of the Grand Encampment, who have crossed the Jordan of Death, of whom we would like to say a word of love and commendation, but we leave this duty to those who knew them best and who are more competent to discharge the duty, as it should



be done, than are we. We can only record here our sincere sympathy with the immediate families and near friends of the loved and lost.

There are no questions "before the House" of sufficient importance to create more than a ripple upon the placid bosom of the Sea of Fraternity and the Ocean of Knightly Courtesy, which is pleasant, in some respects if it does reduce the chance for a scrimmage to the minimum.

The contention of New York, right, just and proper as are her demands for a change in the law of the Grand Encampment, giving to each Grand Jurisdiction voting power in accordance with the number of its members, is quite generally approved, and our good brother Anthony has dealt many sledge hammer blows in its behalf, which we hope will bear fruit in the fruition of his desire.

Much is also said, pro and con, on the subject of non-affiliation in the Blue Lodge as affecting membership in the Commandery. Many of our brethren seem to have forgotten the vows of their first estate, and that no subsequent engagement could or can relieve them from obligations assumed in the Blue Lodge, and these are inclined to uphold the Grand Encampment in its opposition to the law of the Grand Lodges of Mississippi and California.

Some people actually expect the Triennial, to be held at Pittsburg, will depart from its immemorial custom and usage and transact some business of importance to the Order. Of course we are not of this number, and a feeling of sympathy for the guileless infants who look for any good thing to come out of this Nazareth, fills our heart and we are reminded of the tenth Beatitude, "Blessed are they that expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed."

We are unable to see any indication of a revival of interest in the custom of attending church in a uniform, on days appropriate to the Order—Easter and Ascension—and of this we are glad. The custom that obtains in Mississippi, at our Annual Conclaves, of repairing to some church and performing the "Devotional Offices" commends itself to our judgment as being eminently proper and appropriate and we only regret that the custom has not become general. We would leave the uniforms at the Asylum, from a sense of propriety and under the unanswerable proposition that no man has a right to make himself conspicuous in God's house by any peculiarity in his dress or conduct, but we are about alone in this, hence do not propose to kick against these pricks. Further than this we are not partial to uniformed piety.

Praying that the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, may keep your hearts and minds in the love of our common Lord and that the blessing of Heaven may rest upon you and upon all Templars, wheresoever dispersed, and with personal regards I remain,

Courteously yours,

E. G. DELAP, Committee.

## ADDRESS OF GRAND RECORDERS.

---

|                               |                            |                 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Alabama .....                 | H. CLAY ARMSTRONG .....    | Montgomery.     |
| Arizona .....                 | GEORGE J. RUSKRUGE .....   | Tucson.         |
| Arkansas .....                | JAMES A. HENRY .....       | Little Rock.    |
| California .....              | THOMAS H. CASWELL .....    | San Francisco.  |
| Canada Sov. Gr't Priory ..... | DANIEL SPRY .....          | Barrie, Ont.    |
| Colorado .....                | ED. C. PARMELEE .....      | Denver.         |
| Connecticut .....             | ELI C. BIRDSEY .....       | Meriden.        |
| District of Columbia .....    | A. B. BENNETT .....        | Washington.     |
| England and Wales .....       | JOHN C. HAY .....          | London, W. C.   |
| Florida .....                 | WM. A. MCLEAN .....        | Jacksonville.   |
| Georgia .....                 | SAMUEL P. HAMILTON .....   | Savannah.       |
| Illinois .....                | GILBERT W. BARNARD .....   | Chicago.        |
| Indiana .....                 | WM. H. SMYTHE .....        | Indianapolis.   |
| Indian Territory .....        | LEO. E. BENNETT .....      | Muskogee.       |
| Iowa .....                    | ALF. WINGATE .....         | Des Moines.     |
| Ireland .....                 | JOHN A. BAKER .....        | Dublin.         |
| Kansas .....                  | A. M. CALAHAM .....        | Topeka.         |
| Kentucky .....                | LORENZO D. CRONINGER ..... | Covington.      |
| Louisiana .....               | RICHARD LAMBERT .....      | New Orleans.    |
| Maine .....                   | STEPHEN BERRY .....        | Portland.       |
| Maryland .....                | JOHN H. MILLER .....       | Baltimore.      |
| Mass. and Rhode Island .....  | BENJ. W. ROWELL .....      | Lynn.           |
| Michigan .....                | JOHN A. GEROW .....        | Detroit.        |
| Minnesota .....               | THOS. MONTGOMERY .....     | St. Paul.       |
| Mississippi .....             | J. L. POWER .....          | Jackson.        |
| Missouri .....                | WM. H. MAYO .....          | St. Louis.      |
| Montana .....                 | EDWARD D. NEIL .....       | Helena.         |
| Nebraska .....                | WM. R. BOWEN .....         | Omaha.          |
| New Hampshire .....           | GEORGE P. CLEAVES .....    | Concord.        |
| New Jersey .....              | CHARLES BECHTEL .....      | Trenton.        |
| New York .....                | JOHN F. SHAFER .....       | Albany.         |
| North Carolina .....          | HORACE H. MUNSON .....     | Wilmington.     |
| North Dakota .....            | FRANK J. THOMPSON .....    | Fargo.          |
| Ohio .....                    | JOHN N. BELL .....         | Dayton.         |
| Oklohoma .....                | H. S. BIRMINGHAM .....     | Guthrie.        |
| Oregon .....                  | JAS. F. ROBINSON .....     | Salem.          |
| Pennsylvania .....            | WM. W. ALLEN .....         | Philadelphia..  |
| Prince Edward Islands .....   | B. WILSON HIGGS .....      | Charlottetown.  |
| Scotland .....                | LINDSEY MACKERSEY .....    | Edinburg.       |
| South Dakota .....            | GEORGE A. PETTIGREW .....  | Flandreau.      |
| Tennessee .....               | WILBUR F. FOSTER .....     | Nashville.      |
| Texas .....                   | J. C. KIDD .....           | Dallas.         |
| Vermont .....                 | WARREN G. REYNOLDS .....   | Burlington.     |
| Victoria, Great Priory .....  | CHARLES CHAPMAN .....      | Melbourne, Aus. |
| Virginia .....                | JAMES B. BLANKS .....      | Petersburg.     |
| Washington .....              | YANCEY C. BLALOCK .....    | Walla Walla.    |
| Wyoming .....                 | JOHN C. BAIRD .....        | Cheyenne.       |
| West Virginia .....           | ROBERT C. DUNNINGTON ..... | Fairmont.       |
| Wisconsin .....               | JOHN W. LAFLIN .....       | Milwaukee.      |

GRAND ENCAMPMENT—R. E. Sir LaRue Thomas, Grand Master, Maysville, Ky. ; William H. Mayo, Grand Recorder, St. Louis, Mo. Next Triennial Grand Conclave, at Pittsburg, second Tuesday in October, 1898.

## GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

COMMISSIONED TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

| <i>Grand Commandery.</i>              | <i>Representative—Postoffice.</i>   | <i>Date of Commission.</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alabama.....                          | Rev. N. G. Augustus, Durant.....    | March 16, 1893.            |
| Arkansas.....                         | Harry T. Howard, Biloxi .....       | August, 1898.              |
| California .....                      | Phineas M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.. | March 27, 1890.            |
| Colorado. ....                        | T. G. Birchett, M. D., Vicksburg..  | January 24, 1890.          |
| Connecticut .....                     | G. D. Brown, Water Valley.....      | August, 1898.              |
| Florida.....                          | J. E. Seavey, Brookhaven.....       | October, 1896.             |
| Georgia.....                          | J. C. French, P.G.C., Natchez.....  | December 7, 1892.          |
| Illinois.....                         | Wm. G. Paxton, P.G.C., Vicksburg..  | January 22, 1890.          |
| Indiana .....                         | C. E. Grafton, Brookhaven.....      | August, 1898.              |
| Iowa .....                            | Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg.. | December 31, 1889          |
| Kansas.....                           | Wm. G. Benbrook, P.G.C., Natchez..  | July 13, 1896.             |
| Kentucky.....                         | Cass Oltenburg, Lexington.....      | August, 1898.              |
| Louisiana.....                        | E. Geo. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez ..   | 1892.                      |
| Maine.....                            | C. L. Lincoln, Columbus.....        | October 16, 1895.          |
| Massachusetts and<br>Rhode Island.... | John S. Cobb, Verona.....           | August, 1898.              |
| Minnesota ..                          | H. M. Romberger, P.G.C., Winona..   | November 12, 1895          |
| Missouri.....                         | J. L. Power, Jackson ..             | February 4, 1890.          |
| Nebraska.....                         | Emmett N. Thomas, Greenville ..     | April 12, 1894.            |
| New Hampshire..                       | Gid. W. Cox, P.G.C., Columbus. .... |                            |
| New York.....                         | Enoch Geo. DeLap, Natchez .....     | January 15, 1890.          |
| North Carolina..                      | Rev. E. Thompson ..                 | March 19, 1897.            |
| North Dakota. ....                    | John D. Miles, Vicksburg.....       |                            |
| Ohio .....                            | Rev. John A. B. Jones, Magnolia..   | April 10, 1893.            |
| Pennsylvania....                      | Chas. T. Chamberlain, Natchez ..    | March 14, 1893.            |
| South Dakota....                      | Wm. G. Sykes, Aberdeen .....        | November 27, 1895          |
| Tennessee .....                       | Wm. Starling, Greenville .....      | January 21, 1890.          |
| Texas .....                           | G. J. Bahin, Natchez. ....          | July 14, 1896.             |
| Vermont ....                          | J. J. Hayes, P.G.C., Vicksburg..... | November 15, 1895          |
| Virginia ..                           | Wm. G. Benbrook.....                | July, 1896.                |
| West Virginia....                     | W. A. Bodenhamer, P.G.C., Okolona.  |                            |
| Wisconsin .....                       | John A. Dicks, Natchez.....         | November 20, 1895          |
| Wyoming .....                         | J. H. Wright.....                   | October, 1896.             |

## GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

COMMISSIONED BY THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

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|                   |                                  |                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alabama .....     | Henry H. Mathews, Montgomery     | October 9, 1896.   |
| Arkansas .....    | George P Taylor, Forest City     | January 18, 1890.  |
| California .....  | Thos H. Caswell, San Francisco   | Decemb'r 23, 1890. |
| Colorado .....    | Alfonso A. Burnard, Leadville    | January 2, 1890.   |
| Connecticut ..... | John W. Mix, Meriden             | October 19, 1896.  |
| Florida .....     | John Sinclair, Jacksonville      | October 9, 1896.   |
| District Columbia | Albert B. Jackson                | October 19, 1896.  |
| Georgia .....     | L. J. Blalock, Americus          | October 9, 1896.   |
| Illinois .....    | James C. Hawley, Dixon           | November 20, 1895  |
| Indiana .....     | James McD. Hayes, Greencastle    | February 5, 1897.  |
| Iowa .....        | James Morton, Cedar Rapids       | November 28, 1892  |
| Kansas .....      | John M. Price, Atchison          | January 28, 1890.  |
| Kentucky .....    | Reginald Heber Thompson, Lou'lle | June 8, 1892.      |
| Louisiana .....   | Joseph H. DeGrange, New Orleans. |                    |
| Maine .....       | J. H. Drummond, Portland         | December 23, 1889  |
| Maryland. ....    | George Cook, Baltimore           | October 8, 1896.   |
| Massachusetts and |                                  |                    |
| Rhode Island...   | Benjamin Rowell, Lynn            | December 16, 1892  |
| Minnesota .....   | Charles H. Mix, Crookston        | June 28, 1893.     |
| Missouri .....    | Rev. Alex M. Dockery, St. Louis  | February 5, 1890.  |
| Montana .....     | E. D. Aiken, Butte City.         | July 10, 1891.     |
| Nebraska. ....    | Louis F. de Lorermier, Desha     | October 8, 1896.   |
| New Hampshire...  | Rev. Daniel C. Roberts, Concord  | August 10, 1891.   |
| New Jersey. ....  | Thomas Godson, Newark            | December 23, 1889  |
| New York .....    | John Anderson, Binghampton       | March 25, 1892.    |
| North Carolina... | Martin S. Willard, Wilmington    | March 9, 1897.     |
| North Dakota....  | Frank A. Briggs, Bismark         | October 8, 1896.   |
| Ohio .....        | William L. Beuchner, Youngstown  | March 11, 1893.    |
| Pennsylvania....  | James H. Coddington, Towanda     | October 19, 1897.  |
| South Dakota. ... | Levi B. French, Yankton          | May 8, 1893.       |
| Tennessee .....   | Morton B. Howell, Nashville.     | January 21, 1890.  |
| Texas .....       | Sam'l M. Williams                |                    |
| Vermont .....     | George W. Squier, Swanton        | January 18, 1889.  |
| Virginia .....    | John T. Parham, Petersburg       | August 5, 1889.    |
| Washington ....   | Walter J. Thompson, Tacoma       | May 24, 1889.      |
| West Virginia ... | Thomas D. Durrah, Wheeling       | November 26, 1892  |
| Wisconsin .....   | N. C. Giffin, Fon du Lac         |                    |
| Wyoming .....     | John C. Davis, Rawlins           | October 8, 1895.   |

# GRAND COMMANDERS,

FROM ORGANIZATION 1857 TO 1898.

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|                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| WILLIAM H. STEVENS.....         | 1857 to 1858—Died October 13, 1866.   |
| GEORGE P. CRUMP.....            | 1858 to 1859—Died 1860.               |
| GILES M. HILLYER.....           | 1859 to 1860—Died April 23, 1871.     |
| HARVEY W. WALTER.....           | 1860 to 1861—Died September 19, 1878. |
| BENJ. S. TAPPAN .....           | 1861 to 1866—Died March 1, 1866.      |
| EDWARD LEA.....                 | 1866 to 1867—Died 1878.               |
| CHRISTOPHER A. MANLOVE....      | 1867 to 1868—Died December 29, 1878.  |
| FLEET C. MERCER.....            | 1869 to 1870—Died January 26, 1885.   |
| JOHN K. FULSON, Water Valley.   | 1869 to 1870                          |
| CHARLES T. BOND.....            | 1870 to 1871 Died December 14, 1872.  |
| WILLIAM S. PATTON.....          | 1871 to 1872—Died July 5, 1889.       |
| E. GEO. DELAP, Natchez .....    | 1872 to 1873                          |
| E. T. HENRY .....               | 1873 to 1874—Died April 10, 1881.     |
| PHINEAS M. SAVERY, Tupelo...    | 1874 to 1875                          |
| GID W. COX, Columbus.....       | 1875 to 1876                          |
| OLIVER CLIFTON, Jackson.....    | 1876 to 1877                          |
| WILLIAM A. FAIRCHILD.....       | 1877 to 1878—Died September 20, 1878. |
| WILLIAM G. PAXTON, Vicksb'rg.   | 1878 to 1879                          |
| CHARLES M. ERWIN .....          | 1879 to 1880                          |
| WILLIAM G. BENBROOK, Natchez.   | 1880 to 1881                          |
| WILLIAM FRENCH.....             | 1881 to 1882—Died April 28, 1884.     |
| JAS. T. MEADE, Birm'hm, Ala...  | 1882 to 1883                          |
| H. M. ROMBERGER, Winona....     | 1883 to 1884                          |
| W. P. TOWLER .....              | 1884 to 1885—Died March 30, 1893.     |
| JOHN H. GORDON, Port Gibson..   | 1885 to 1886                          |
| B. A. VAUGHAN, M. D., Columbus. | 1886 to 1887—Died November 5, 1898.   |
| N. S. WALKER, Port Gibson....   | 1887 to 1888 -Died August 12, 1895.   |
| FREDERIC SPEED, Vicksburg....   | 1888 to 1890                          |
| JAS. J. HAYES, Vicksburg.....   | 1890 to 1891                          |
| J. E. LEIGH.....                | 1891 to 1892—Died November 7, 1891.   |
| W. A. BODENHAMER, Okolona...    | 1892 to 1893                          |
| S. W. FERGUSON, Greenville....  | 1893 to 1894                          |
| J. C. FRENCH, M. D., Natchez... | 1894 to 1895                          |
| FRANK P. JINKINS, Aberdeen...   | 1895 to 1896                          |
| J. M. BUCHANAN, M. D... ..      | 1896 to 1897                          |
| JAMES T. HARRISON.....          | 1897 to 1898                          |
| WILLIAM STARLING ....           | 1898                                  |

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## HONORARY PAST GRAND COMMANDERS.

|                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| J. L. POWER, P.E.C.....   | Mississippi, No. 1—elected 1891. |
| JOHN D. MILES, P.E.C..... | Magnolia, No. 2—elected 1892.    |
| GUS J. BAHIN.....         | Rosalie, No. 5—elected 1896.     |

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# *Grand Officers,*

## *1898-'99.*

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WILLIAM STARLING.....Greenville....Grand Commander.  
JNO. S. COBB.....Verona .....Deputy Grand Commander.  
REV. JNO. A. B. JONES...Magnolia .....Grand Generalissimo.  
OLIVER L. MCKAY.....Aberdeen ....Grand Captain General.  
REV. J. A. BOWEN .....Water Valley.Grand Prelate.  
GUS. J. BAHIN.....Natchez.....Grand Treasurer.  
J. L. POWER .....Jackson... ..Grand Recorder.  
HARRY T. HOWARD.....Biloxi .. ....Grand Senior Warden.  
G. D. BROWN .....Water Valley Grand Junior Warden.  
J. F. DIXON.....Natchez .....Grand Standard Bearer.  
GEO. C. HOSKINS.....Brookhaven...Grand Sword Bearer.  
R. H. HENRY .....Jackson.....Grand Warder.  
J. W. PARKHURST.....Vicksburg .. Grand Captain of the Guard.

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### *Standing Committees.*

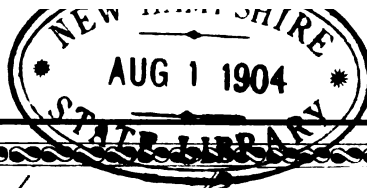
TEMPLAR LAW—Frederic Speed, P.G.C., Vicksburg; William G. Paxton.  
P.G.C., Vicksburg; P. M. Savery, P.G.C., Tupelo.  
FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—E. G. DeLap, P.G.C., Natchez, Reporter.  
TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE GRAND ENCAMPMENT—E. N. Thomas, C. W.  
Gibson, Frank P. Jenkins, Harry T. Howard, J. C. French, R.  
H. Henry, L. A. Benoist.

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*The Thirty-ninth Annual Conclave will be held in Vicksburg, on  
Monday, February 7th, 1899, Commencing at 10 o'clock a*







*Thirty-Ninth  
Annual Conclave*

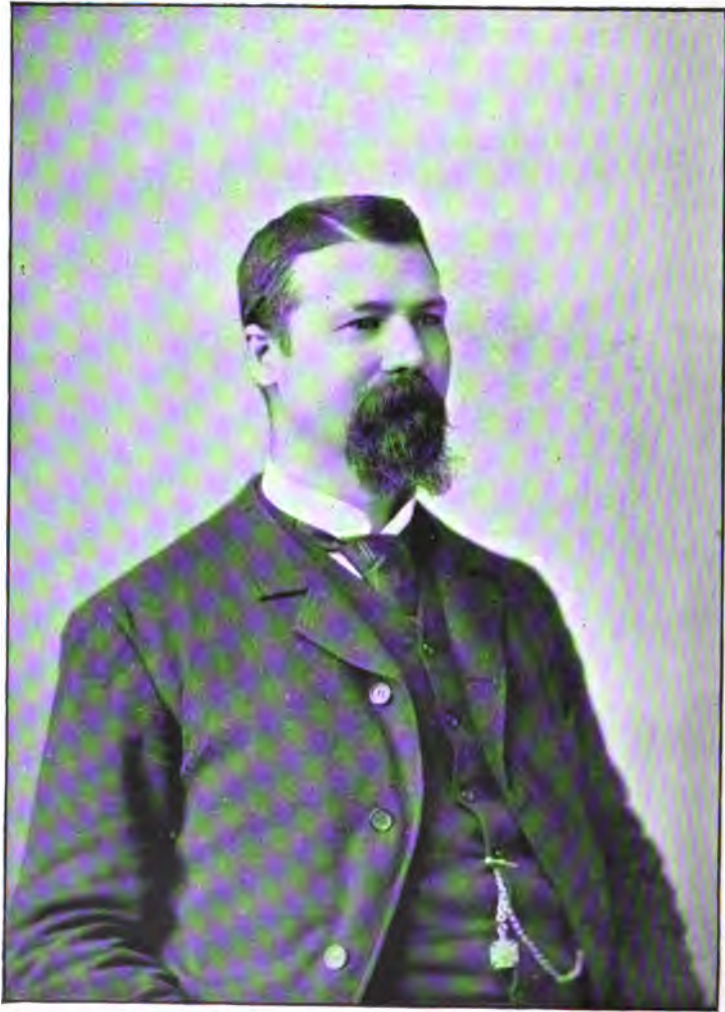
*Grand  
Commandery  
of  
Mississippi.*



1899.







*Fraternally*  
*Geo. S. Cobb*

*Grand Commander.*

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

# GRAND COMMANDERY

KNIGHTS OF THE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

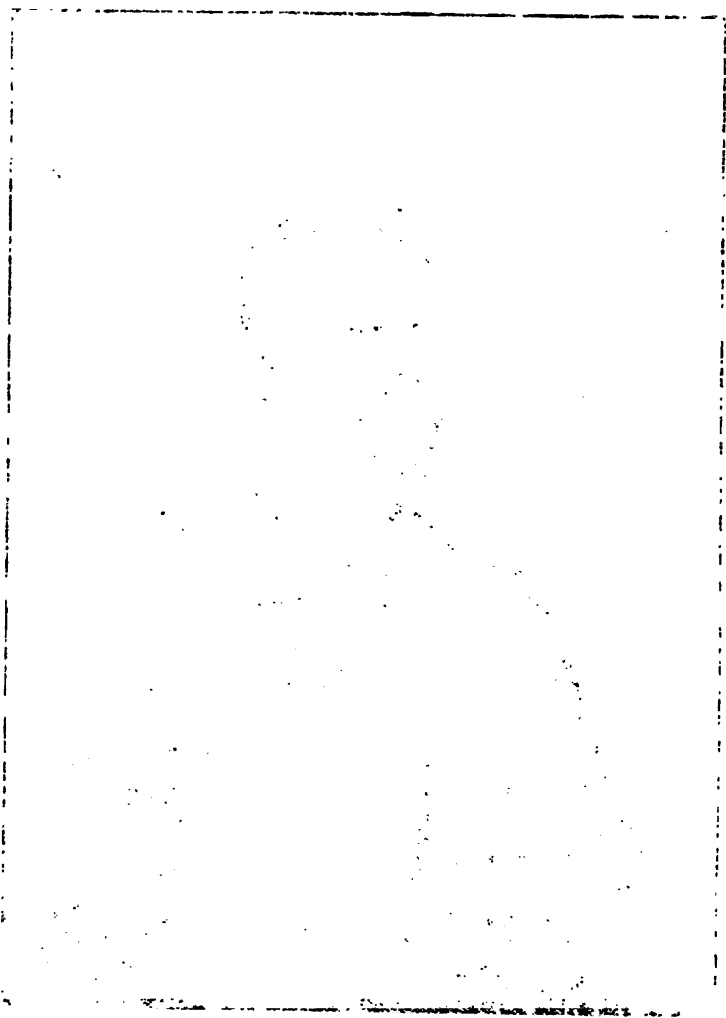
VICKSBURG, FEBRUARY 6-7.

1899.



JACKSON, MISS.  
HARMON PUBLISHING CO.

1899.



not really  
J. S. Webb

Ward's counter

FMIS  
V 39

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

— OF THE —

GRAND COMMANDERY

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

— OF THE —

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

— HELD AT —


VICKSBURG, FEBRUARY 6-7.

1899.



JACKSON, MISS:  
HARMON PUBLISHING CO.

1899.



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*The Fortieth Annual Conclave*  
WILL BE HELD IN MERIDIAN, ON MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 19, 1900, COMMENCING AT 10  
O'CLOCK A. M.



# Grand Commandery of Mississippi.

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## Thirty-Ninth Annual Conclave.

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THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MISSISSIPPI convened in its Thirty-Ninth Annual Conclave in the Asylum of Magnolia Commandery No. 2, in the city of Vicksburg, on Monday, February 6, 1899, at 10 o'clock A. M., there being present the following

### *Grand Officers :*

|                                |                                                  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| SIR WM. STARLING.....          | R. E. Grand Commander.                           |
| SIR JOHN S. COBB.....          | V. E. Dep. Grand Commander.                      |
| REV. SIR JOHN A. B. JONES..... | Grand Generalissimo and Acting<br>Grand Prelate. |
| SIR OLIVER L. MCKAY .....      | Grand Captain-General.                           |
| SIR GUS J. BAHIN.....          | Grand Treasurer.                                 |
| SIR J. L. POWER.....           | Grand Recorder.                                  |
| SIR HARRY T. HOWARD .....      | Grand Senior Warden.                             |
| SIR A. A. POSEY .....          | as Grand Junior Warden.                          |
| SIR J. K. MOORE.....           | as Grand Standard Bearer.                        |
| SIR ROBERT SOMERVILLE.....     | as Grand Sword Bearer.                           |
| SIR E. E. CLEMENT.....         | as Grand Warder.                                 |
| SIR J. W. PARKHURST.....       | Grand Captain of the Guard.                      |

Absent—Rev. Sir J. A. Bowen, Grand Prelate; Sir G. D. Brown, Grand Junior Warden; Sir J. F. Dixon, Grand Standard Bearer; Sir George C. Hoskins, Grand Sword Bearer; Sir R. H. Henry, Grand Warder.

### *Past Grand Officers.*

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| JOHN K. FULSON.....    | Past Grand Commander |
| E. GEORGE DELAP.....   | Past Grand Commander |
| FREDERIC SPEED.....    | Past Grand Commander |
| JAMES J. HAYES.....    | Past Grand Commander |
| W. A. BODENHAMER.....  | Past Grand Commander |
| J. C. FRENCH.....      | Past Grand Commander |
| FRANK P. JINKINS.....  | Past Grand Commander |
| J. M. BUCHANAN.....    | Past Grand Commander |
| JAMES T. HARRISON..... | Past Grand Commander |

Also present, the Representatives of thirteen Subordinate Commanderies, several Past Eminent Commanders, and a large number of visiting Sir Knights, and the following

### *Grand Representatives :*

|                                                       |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grand Commandery of Arkansas.....                     | HARRY T. HOWARD          |
| Grand Commandery District of Columbia.....            | E. J. MARTIN             |
| Grand Commandery of Connecticut.....                  | G. D. BROWN              |
| Grand Commandery of Georgia .....                     | J. C. FRENCH, P. G. C.   |
| Grand Commandery of Illinois.....                     | JAMES K. MOORE           |
| Grand Commandery of Iowa.....                         | FREDERIC SPEED, P. G. C. |
| Grand Commandery of Louisiana.....                    | E. G. DELAP, P. G. C.    |
| Grand Commandery Massachusetts and Rhode Island ..... | JOHN S. COBB             |
| Grand Commandery of Missouri.....                     | J. L. POWER              |
| Grand Commandery of Nebraska.....                     | E. N. THOMAS             |
| Grand Commandery of New York.....                     | E. G. DELAP, P. G. C.    |
| Grand Commandery of North Dakota .....                | JOHN D. MILES            |
| Grand Commandery of Ohio.....                         | REV. JOHN A. B. JONES    |
| Grand Commandery of South Dakota.....                 | WILLIAM G. SYKES         |
| Grand Commandery of Tennessee.....                    | WILLIAM STARLING, G. C.  |
| Grand Commandery of Texas .....                       | GUS J. BAHIN             |
| Grand Commandery of Vermont.....                      | J. J. HAYES, P. G. C.    |
| Grand Commandery of Wyoming.....                      | J. H. WRIGHT             |

The Grand Commandery was opened in Ample and Knightly Form, the Divine Blessing being invoked by Rev. Sir Knight John A. B. Jones, Grand Captain-General.

The R. E. Grand Commander stated that he left home in such haste, he failed to bring the address prepared for this Grand Conclave, and asked "leave to print," which was agreed to.\*

The R. E. Grand Commander appointed, to fill vacancies in Law Committee, Sir Harry T. Howard, in place of Sir William G. Paxton, deceased; and Sir W. G. Sykes, in place of Sir P. M. Savery, absent on account of sickness.

The following were announced as the Committee on Credentials: Sirs J. W. Eckford, J. J. White, R. A. Stigler.

### *Reports of Law Committee.*

The following reports were submitted and adopted :

#### *To the Grand Commandery :*

The Committee on Templar Law beg leave to report that during the year a question has been submitted to it as to whether a petition for the Orders can, with the aid of a special dispensation by the Grand Commander, be presented and acted upon at a Special Conclave of a Commandery. To which they have replied in the negative. The law of the Grand Encampment is that every petition must be presented at a Stated Conclave, unless by permission of the Grand Commander, Sec. 13, Title

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\*Address not received by Grand Recorder.

xlv.; referred to a committee of three members of the Commandery, and that committee has reported, Sec. 9; four weeks must elapse before it can be acted upon, without the special dispensation of the Grand Commander in writing, Sec. 14; but the Grand Commander has power to grant dispensations to act upon petitions in less than four weeks, Sec. 20. All of which would seem to give ample authority for the Grand Commander to grant license to do almost anything asked for in the way of a candidate being rushed through the asylum at lightning speed, and it would, but for the fact that we are confronted by Sec. 21, which puts a stumbling block in the way, which can neither be got around or stepped over, by requiring that such dispensation can only be asked for by a vote of the Commandery.

The law of this Jurisdiction is that petitions can only be received and acted on at Stated Conclaves, and must lay over one month before balloting thereon, unless by special dispensation of the Grand Commander, Sec. 73, Rules and Edicts. It is not altogether clear whether the dispensing power extends to the entire section, or is restricted to that portion relating to the taking of the ballot. It is another illustration of the Irish barrister's case, in which he said: "An', sure, I would like to argu' it on either side for five hundred poun'."

It is undoubtedly within the province of the Grand Commander to issue either one of these dispensations, after they are asked for by a vote of the Commandery, which is an indispensable prerequisite to his granting it, but before there can be such a vote there must be a Stated Conclave, for it is manifest that there must be a petition before it and not one in anticipation, upon which for it to act, and that until there is the initiatory step, of a "cutting across lots" performance, it cannot be taken, viz.: A vote upon the question as to whether a dispensation shall be asked for. Of course, it is greatly to be lamented that anything should be allowed to stand in the way of one of these Royal Arch Masons, who suddenly arrive at the conclusion that they must be Knight Templars, and nothing will do them but that they shall be put through an instantaneous process. It seems to be the law that the aspirant for Templar honors must make a petition, and such petition can be received only at a Stated Conclave, and until it is there can be no vote of the Commandery upon which the Grand Commander can base a dispensation. It may be a stupid blunder of the law-makers or an act of supreme wisdom, according to the way we look at things, but whichever it may be, we ought to give thanks for anything which will place every candidate upon an equal footing and compel every one to come in by the same methods.

If the Grand Commander were present in person at a Stated Conclave at which it was voted to ask for a special dispensation, or if he could be reached by wire or otherwise after the vote was taken, and the Conclave should last long enough for his answer to be received, he undoubtedly would have power to grant it, and thereby enable a Commandery to proceed with all other steps required, at once; in this way the Orders could be conferred on that or any subsequent day, but in the absence of a dis-

pensation all the requirements must be observed. The fact that a request for a dispensation must be voted upon by the Commandery, Sec. 21, and the further fact that there is no provision by which a petition can be got before a Commandery except at a Stated Conclave, defeats the object of all the liberal provisions in the preceding sections, unless it should so happen that the time of making a petition and a Stated Conclave should be almost simultaneous, or, as before stated, the Grand Commander is present or within reach.

In expressing this opinion, it is with the reservation by the Committee that they are merely declaring what the law is, and not their approval of it. If it were our province to make the laws of the Chapter, Council and Commandery, there would be incorporated none of these needless restrictions upon their action in admitting candidates, or in any other respect, beyond the declaration of the few fundamentals upon which they are based and which should be enforced to preserve the unity of Masonry. We do not believe that it is necessary to throw around bodies of intelligent men a thousand and one restrictions such as we now have; a multiplicity of laws hedging in every movement, as if they were a parcel of children, incapable of self-government. In the Lodge we thoroughly believe in all the preliminary steps being taken with the utmost deliberation and the exercise of every possible precaution, for it is there that the foundation of a man's Masonic life is laid and the only really essential covenants are entered upon and the fidelity of the candidate irrevocably sealed, and we are bound to him by a tie that is not lightly to be entered upon by any man. Nothing which experience has demonstrated to be a necessary precaution should be omitted there, by dispensation or otherwise, but after a man is made a Mason and we know him thoroughly, it would seem as though it were not necessary to bind those who have reached the years of Masonic discretion, like Knights Templar, by so many restrictions upon the exercise of a sound judgment as to who should be permitted to advance to the consummation of any reasonable Masonic ambition. We doubt if any harm would result to the Order if Commanderies were allowed to receive and act upon petitions for the Orders at any time and to proceed as their own good judgment dictates.

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Since the foregoing report was prepared the Grand Encampment has "revised, amended and adopted" its Constitution and Code of Statutes. Sec. 3, Art. IV., of the new Constitution, and Sec. 1, Title VII., of the Statutes, restrict balloting to Stated Conclaves, and this requirement is not the subject of dispensation. So it seems that the conclusions of the committee were correct under either the old or the new law, but while the new law is the plainer of the two, neither is as clear as it ought to be. It is said that "petitions for the Orders and for membership cannot be received and acted on except at Stated Conclaves," but they can "be balloted on in less than two weeks from their presentation" by a special dispensation. As there is no restriction upon the number of Stated Conclaves which a Commandery may have, we presume that the latter provision was

inserted to meet the case of a Commandery which has a Stated Conclave every week.

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED,  
For the Committee.

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*To the Right Eminent the Grand Commandery :*

The Committee on Templar Law beg leave to report that, owing to a revision having been made of the laws of the Grand Encampment, numerous changes have become necessary in our own Code to make it conform to those of the Supreme governing power. That a revision may be prepared for consideration at our next Annual Conclave, they recommend the adoption of the following :

*Resolved*, That a committee of one be appointed to prepare a revision of the laws of this Grand Commandery so as to make them conform to the laws of the Grand Encampment, and that one hundred dollars be appropriated for the compensation of such committee.

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED,  
W. G. SYKES,  
H. T. HOWARD,  
Committee.

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*To the Right Eminent the Grand Commandery :*

The Committee on Templar Law, to whom was referred the question as to what the fee for the Orders is, beg leave to report that the minimum fee, as fixed by our laws, is forty dollars.

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED,  
H. T. HOWARD,  
W. G. SYKES,  
Committee.

---

*To the Right Eminent the Grand Commandery :*

The Committee on Templar Law beg leave to report that a question of jurisdiction arose during the year, and we were asked to decide whether Section 1, Title XXXIV., of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment was the law of this Jurisdiction. To which our reply was in the negative. It is provided in that section that, "in the absence of a statute of the proper Grand Commandery \* \* \* defining the limits of each Commandery, the jurisdiction thereof \* \* \* extends in all directions to one-half the distance, by a direct line, between itself and the next nearest Commandery." We formerly had a Rule and Edict (Sec. 51) to the same effect, but in 1886 all jurisdictional lines in this State were abolished. It is true that, technically speaking, we have no Statutes, and the mode in which the former "Rule and Edict" was abrogated was not in strict

accordance with parliamentary usage, but it was the intention of the Grand Commandery to abolish all jurisdictional limits between Commanderies, and it has been so recognized ever since, and so far as we know has worked to the satisfaction of all concerned.

However, to meet any technical objections which may arise in the future, we recommend that the following be adopted :

*Resolved*, That the laws of this Grand Commandery, now known as "General Regulations" and "Rules and Edicts," be consolidated, and hereafter designated as the "Statutes."

*Resolved*, That Section 51 of the Statutes, formerly called "Rules and Edicts," be amended so as to read as follows : —

Section 51. Each Commandery has concurrent jurisdiction with all other Commanderies within the State of Mississippi.

Courteously submitted,

FREDERIC SPEED,  
W. G. PAXTON,  
P. M. SAVERY,  
Committee.

### *Report of Committee on Credentials.*

The Credentials Committee submitted the following report, which was received and adopted :

*To the Grand Commandery :*

Your Committee on Credentials beg leave to report the attendance of the following Sir Knights, representing the Commanderies named :

MISSISSIPPI, No. 1—J. J. White, Em. Commander.

MAGNOLIA, No. 2—J. D. Miles, P. E. C., Em. Commander.

Chas. C. Fife, Generalissimo.

C. C. Floweree, Captain-General.

LEXINGTON, No. 3—P. A. Lindholm, proxy for E. C.

W. P. Tackett, Generalissimo.

R. A. Stigler, Captain-General.

HOLLY SPRINGS, No. 4—George C. Myers, P. E. C., Representative.

ROSALIE, No. 5—W. C. Hathcox, Generalissimo.

ST. CYR, No. 6—G. D. Brown, P. E. C., Representative.

DEMOULAY, No. 8—D. S. McClannahan, Representative.

T. B. Franklin, Captain-General.

CYRENE, No. 9—B. V. White, Em. Commander.

W. H. Howard, Generalissimo.

C. S. Eastman, Captain-General.

IVANHOE, No. 10—W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C., Em. Commander.

COEUR DE LION, No. 13—

DELTA, No. 16—

ABERDEEN, No. 17—J. W. Eckford, Em. Commander.

ST. ELMO, No. 18—W. H. Seavey, Em. Commander.

COAST, No. 19—E. E. Clement, Em. Commander.

G. Edward Park. Generalissimo.

DEWEY, U. D.—C. L. Joiner, Acting Em. Commander.

### *Past Eminent Commanders.*

The following Past Eminent Commanders, not present in any other capacity, are in attendance :

From Mississippi, No. 1—Nolan Stewart.

Magnolia, No. 2—James K. Moore.

Holly Springs, No. 4—Sam H. Pryor.

Cyrene, No. 9—J. H. Wright, D. B. Waddell.

Ivanhoe, No. 10—Frank Burkitt.

Aberdeen, No. 17—W. G. Sykes, A. A. Posey, W. H. Clifton.

Mt. Vernon, No. 1, Columbus, O.—O. H. Kendall.

Your Committee take pleasure in reporting the presence of the following visiting Knights. Several others were in attendance whose names we did not learn :

From Magnolia, No. 2—Robert B. Chapman, Albert A. Arnold, John W. Parkhurst.

Lexington, No. 3—John Belford, C. C. Swinney.

Holly Springs, No. 4—J. W. Stephenson.

St. Cyr, No. 6—W. C. Boyd, Robert Somerville.

Cyrene, No. 9—J. L. Spinks, A. J. Peck, S. E. Wilson, M. R. Grant.

Aberdeen, No. 17—J. J. Ellis.

Coast, No. 19—H. J. Meaut, J. B. Garrard, T. W. Grayson, T. H. Gleason.

Dewey, U. D.—S. M. Roane, A. H. Bays, Wm. Johnson, L. F. West.

Fitzhugh Lee, U. D.—W. M. Conner.

Courteously submitted,

J. W. ECKFORD,

J. J. WHITE,

R. A. STIGLER,

Committee.

### *Report of Grand Recorder.*

February 6, 1899.

To the R. E. Grand Commandery :

I beg leave to submit my Twenty-ninth Annual Report as your Grand Recorder :

#### RECEIPTS.

|                                                         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Mississippi Commandery, No. 1—Dues for 1897 . . . . .   | \$ 55 00 |
| Magnolia Commandery, No. 2—Dues for 1897 . . . . .      | 50 00    |
| Lexington Commandery, No. 3—Dues for 1897 . . . . .     | 40 00    |
| Holly Springs Commandery, No. 4—Dues for 1897 . . . . . | 16 00    |

|                                                  |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Rosalie Commandery, No. 5—Dues for 1897.....     | 59 00 |
| St. Cyr Commandery, No. 6—Dues for 1897.....     | 75 00 |
| Cyrene Commandery, No. 9—Dues for 1897.....      | 85 00 |
| Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 10—Dues for 1897.....    | 74 00 |
| St. Elmo Commandery, No. 18—Dues for 1897.....   | 34 00 |
| Dewey Commandery, U. D.—Dispensation .....       | 90 00 |
| Fitzhugh Lee Commandery, U. D.—Dispensation..... | 90 00 |

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\$668 00

The receipts show an increase over the preceding year of \$127.60 ; and the disbursements \$20.35 in excess of receipts. The Treasury balance this date being \$298.52. The receipts for the present year will be about \$900.00.

I recommend that at present Conclave, and at all future Conclaves when our financial condition will permit, Grand Officers, as well as Representatives, be paid their actual expenses for attendance, where they are not compensated in any capacity in the other Grand Bodies. Usually several will be thus provided for ; and the others should be reimbursed for actual outlay.

On the 14th of May it was my privilege to sign a Dispensation, authorized by Grand Commander, for Dewey Commandery, at West Point ; and I had the honor of selecting its name. It organized with just the constitutional number : but it has knighted twenty-nine companions.

On the 12th of December, by authority of Grand Commander, issued Dispensation for a new Commandery at Hattiesburg, to be named Fitzhugh Lee Commandery. This Commandery has conferred the Orders on twenty-seven candidates, the fees to Grand Commandery thereon being \$135.00, which amount was received with petition for charter.

Both of these Commanderies are applying for charters, and I most cordially recommend that they be granted.

There has been some correspondence about the revival of Mary Commandery, No. 14, at Corinth ; and I recommend that, should a constitutional number of the former members petition for restoration of charter, the same be granted without expense.

On the 16th of December I was notified that our R. . E. . Grand Commander was commissioned, December 7, as Representative of Grand Commandery of Tennessee ; and by authority of Grand Commander, renewed commission of Sir Morton B. Howell as our Representative near that Grand Jurisdiction.

Sir E. J. Martin, of Meridian, was commissioned, December 24, as our Representative near the Grand Commandery District Columbia.

On the 19th of December re-commissioned Sir James Morton, Representative to Grand Commandery Iowa ; and on same date recommended R. . E. . Sir Frederic Speed as our Representative near that Grand Jurisdiction ; and he was so commissioned December 22.

On the 17th of December, Sir John S. Cobb was commissioned as the Representative Grand Commandery Massachusetts and Rhode Island.



On the 16th of December, Sir Wm. G. Sykes was commissioned Representative of the Grand Commandery South Dakota.

On the 2d of January, 1899, Sir James K. Moore was commissioned to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of our beloved and lamented Pas Grand Commander, William G. Paxton, as Representative of the Grand Commandery of Illinois.

On the 9th of January issued commission to Sir James G. Elwood, of Joliet, Ill., to succeed James A. Hawley, who died December 30, 1898.

The rolls of Grand Representatives should be thoroughly revised. Several holding the commissions of this Grand Body seldom appear in the councils of the Grand Bodies to which they are accredited; and several accredited to this Grand Body would not feel that they were seriously inconvenienced or slighted were there commissions cancelled. Several are always conspicuous by their absence or silence.

Courteously submitted,

J. L. POWER, Grand Recorder,

Which was referred to the Finance Committee.

### *Report of Grand Treasurer.*

G. J. BAHIN, Grand Treasurer,

IN ACCOUNT WITH GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

DR.

|              |                                        |          |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|----------|
| 1898.        |                                        |          |
| February 10. | On hand this date.....                 | \$318 87 |
| 1899.        |                                        |          |
| February 6.  | To cash of Grand Recorder to date..... | 668 00   |
|              |                                        | <hr/>    |
|              |                                        | \$986 87 |

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|             |                                                       |          |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1898.       |                                                       |          |
| No. 1.      | Pay roll, Grand Conclave 1898.....                    | \$138 87 |
| No. 2.      | Reporter on Foreign Correspondence.....               | 100 00   |
| No. 3.      | Whitehead & Hoag Co., badges.....                     | 16 00    |
| No. 4.      | Grand Encampment, dues.....                           | 22 45    |
| No. 5.      | American Express, on moving banner.....               | 3 20     |
| No. 6.      | Proceedings and other printing, Clarion-Ledger..      | 214 43   |
| No. 7.      | Vicksburg Herald, printing.....                       | 6 00     |
| No. 8.      | Jackson Printing Company.....                         | 2 75     |
| No. 9.      | Clarion-Ledger, printing for Triennial Committee..... | 11 25    |
| No. 10.     | News Publishing Company.....                          | 3 00     |
| No. 11.     | Grand Recorder, postage and express.....              | 20 40    |
| No. 12.     | Grand Treasurer, salary 1898.....                     | 25 00    |
| No. 13.     | J. L. Power, Grand Recorder, salary 1898.....         | 100 00   |
| No. 14.     | Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum.....                 | 25 00    |
|             |                                                       | <hr/>    |
|             |                                                       | \$688 35 |
| 1899.       |                                                       |          |
| February 6. | On hand this date.....                                | \$298 52 |
|             |                                                       | <hr/>    |
|             |                                                       | \$986 87 |

Fraternally submitted,

G. J. BAHIN, Grand Treasurer.

Which was referred to the Finance Committee.

The R. E. Grand Commander appointed as additional members of Triennial Comité, Grand Encampment, Sir Frank P. Jenkins, P. G. C.; Sir J. J. Hayes, P. G. C.; Sir W. H. Clifton.

The following Sir Knights were appointed a Special Committee on Commanderies Under Dispensation and Grand Representatives: W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C.; George C. Myers, J. J. Ellis.

Past Grand Commander E. G. DeLap submitted his report on Fraternal Correspondence, which was received and ordered printed with the Proceedings.

At 12:30 the Grand Commandery was called off until 2:30 P. M.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

On resuming labor at 2:30 P. M., Grand Commandery proceeded to the election of Grand Officers, resulting as follows:

### *Grand Officers Elected.*

JOHN S. COBB ..... Verona ..... R. E. Grand Commander.  
 REV. JOHN A. B. JONES.... Magnolia .... V. E. Dep. Grand Commander.  
 OLIVER L. MCKAY ..... Aberdeen .... E. Grand Generalissimo.  
 HARRY T. HOWARD ..... Biloxi ..... E. Grand Captain-General.  
 REV. D. B. WADDELL..... Meridian ..... E. Grand Prelate.  
 GUS J. BAHIN..... Natchez ..... E. Grand Treasurer.  
 J. L. POWER..... Jackson ..... E. Grand Recorder.  
 FRANK BURKITT..... Okolona ..... E. Grand Senior Warden.  
 R. H. HENRY ..... Jackson ..... E. Grand Junior Warden.  
 J. F. DIXON... .. Natchez ..... E. Grand Standard Bearer.  
 G. C. MYERS..... Holly Springs.E. Grand Sword Bearer.  
 NOLAN STEWART ..... Jackson ..... E. Grand Warder.  
 A. J. PECK..... Meridian ..... E. Grand Captain of the Guard.

### *Fees for the Orders.*

Sir Thomas B. Franklin offered the following, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Grand Commandery that it is an evasion of the law to remit any portion of the fees for the Orders, and all Commanderies are forbidden to confer the Orders upon any companion whatever unless a fee of at least forty dollars is paid therefor.

### *Commanderies U. D.---Grand Representatives.*

The following report was submitted:

*To the Grand Commandery:*

Your Committee on Commanderies Under Dispensation, and Grand Representatives, begs leave to report that it has examined the records of Dewey and Fitzhugh Lee Commanderies, and, finding all regular and cor-

rect, and recommend that charters be granted, to be numbered, respectively, 20 and 21.

Your committee further recommend that the appointment of Grand Representatives, to and from this Grand Commandery, be approved, and that the list of Grand Representatives to and from this Grand Commandery be revised, as suggested by Grand Recorder.

Fraternally submitted,

W. A. BODENHAMER,

GEORGE C. MYERS,

J. J. ELLIS,

Committee.

The report was received; and on motion the names of the Commanderies were changed to West Point, No. 20, at West Point; and Hattiesburg, No. 21, at Hattiesburg.

The recently accredited Grand Representatives to this Commandery, to-wit:

R. E. Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Grand Commandery Iowa;

R. E. William Starling, G. C., Grand Commandery Tennessee;

E. William G. Sykes, Grand Commandery South Dakota;

E. John S. Cobb, Grand Commandery Massachusetts and Rhode Island;

E. James K. Moore, Grand Commandery Illinois,

Having presented their credentials—the first three re-commissioned—were welcomed in cordial terms, by Sir Frank Burkitt, for Grand Commandery.

Sir Frederic Speed, for himself, and the other Grand Representatives made suitable response.

Grand Commandery then adjourned until 7 o'clock P. M.

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## NIGHT SESSION—DEVOTIONAL SERVICE.

Grand Commandery re-assembled at 7 o'clock P. M., and, the lines being formed, moved to the Methodist Church to observe the Devotional Offices of the Order, which were conducted by Rev. Sir D. B. Waddell, who delivered a discourse appropriate to the occasion. An excellent choir of ladies and gentlemen of the city furnished the music. The customary collection was taken up for the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum.

On return to Asylum, Grand Commandery adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

## SECOND DAY.

TUESDAY, February 7, 1899.

The Grand Commandery assembled at 9 o'clock A. M. Present as on yesterday, and several additional visitors.

Grand Treasurer G. J. Bahin reported that the collection at devotional service last night, for the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum, amounted to \$78.15.

### *Special Report of Finance Committee.*

The following report was submitted and adopted :

*To the Grand Commandery :*

Your Special Committee on Finance, to examine the reports of Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer, on a critical investigation find the same correct. The committee recommend that the Grand Officers receive no compensation for their attendance, and that the suggestion of the Grand Recorder be rejected.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. CLIFTON,  
JAMES J. HAYES,  
F. P. JINKINS.  
Committee.

The Grand Officers elect (as on page 12) were then duly installed by Past Grand Commander Frederic Speed.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced the following

### *Standing and Special Committees :*

TEMPLAR LAW—Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Vicksburg ; P. M. Savery, P. G. C., Tupelo ; W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C., Okolona.

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—E. G. DeLap, P. G. C., Natchez, Reporter.

NEXT TRIENNIAL GRAND ENCAMPMENT—E. N. Thomas, C. W. Gibson, E. J. Martin, Harry T. Howard, J. C. French, P. G. C.

On motion, the thanks of Grand Commandery were tendered the pastor and congregation of the Methodist Church for the use of their edifice during devotional service last night.

On motion, it was ordered that the next Grand Conclave shall be held on the Monday preceding the meeting of Grand Lodge, and at the same place.

Sir Knight W. P. Tackett moved that a committee be appointed to confer with Grand Lodge with reference to changing the time of meeting to as late a date in each year as the Constitution of Grand Lodge will admit. Which was agreed to, and Sir Knights R. A. Stigler, Irvin Miller and W. G. Sykes were named as the committee.

On motion of Sir Knight Speed, it was ordered that the sum of \$78.15, collected at the devotional service last night, be set aside as a nucleus for the building of a hospital annex to the Protestant Orphan Asylum, and as

a memorial to Past Grand Commander Wm. G. Paxton, who first suggested the necessity of such an addition to the Asylum.

It was unanimously

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Grand Commandery are eminently due to R. E. Sir Wm. Starling, for his able, impartial and very satisfactory administration as Grand Commander.

The Grand Recorder was, on motion, requested to wire the sympathy of Grand Commandery to Past Grand Commander P. M. Savery, and to express the hope that he may be speedily restored to health and to his accustomed spheres of usefulness.

By unanimous vote, the thanks of Grand Commandery were tendered to Magnolia Commandery, No. 2, for courtesies extended during the entire period of this Conclave.

The Grand Commander appointed a special committee of three, consisting of Sirs Irvin Miller, James T. Harrison and E. G. DeLap, to prepare a tribute of respect to the memory of our late beloved frater, Sir Knight William G. Paxton, Past Grand Commander.

No further business appearing, the Thirty-ninth Annual Conclave was then duly closed, the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir D. B. Waddell, leading the devotions and offering the

### *Closing Prayer.*

Almighty Father, we return unto Thee grateful thanks that Thou hast blessed in the past and permitted us to meet together once more as brethren, and Knights sworn to Thy service. Continue Thy blessings to us, we beseech Thee, and specially give to each one of us the guidance and assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to live worthy of the noble cause of Knights Templarism, and worthy soldiers of Thee our Father and our God, that we may advance the cause of God and right in the world, and hasten the coming of the glorious kingdom of righteousness.

Direct us in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in Thee we may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and glory, now and forever. Amen.

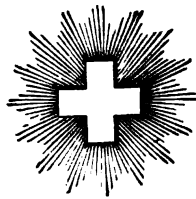
**JOHN S. COBB,**

Grand Commander.

ATTEST :



Grand Recorder.



# RETURNS OF COMMANDERIES,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 27, 1898.

(INCLUDING OFFICERS FOR 1899.)

## MISSISSIPPI COMMANDERY, No. 1—JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                             |         |                               |             |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| J. J. White.....            | E. C.   | H. M. Taylor .....            | Treasurer   |
| J. W. Power .....           | Gen'o   | W. J. Brown, Jr., P. E. C.... | Recorder    |
| W. B. Taylor, P. E. C.....  | C. G.   | Geo. Lemon, P. E. C.....      | St. Bearer  |
| J. L. Power, P. E. C.....   | Prelate | D. E. Adkisson.....           | Sw. Bearer  |
| Nolan Stewart, P. E. C..... | S. W.   | R. H. Henry, P. E. C.....     | Warder      |
| A. G. Lewis, P. E. C.....   | J. W.   | J. A. Webb, P. E. C....       | C. of Guard |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—D. P. Porter, R. F. McGill.

MEMBERS—L. H. Applegate, Robert Bradley, J. T. B. Berry, H. E. A. Bourgeois, A. J. Chapman, W. J. Ferguson, H. M. Folkes, Richard Griffith, George T. Gracey, J. M. Hartfield, Wirt Johnston, B. C. Lemly, James M. McKee, W. W. Moore, W. S. Pittman, O. B. Quinn, R. V. Ratchford, J. F. Robinson, W. W. Robertson, J. M. Stingily, E. B. Tabor—35.

KNIGHTED—D. E. Adkisson, J. M. Hartfield.

DEMITTED—B. W. Griffith.

DIED—J. M. Cain, February 27, 1898.

Due: to Grand Commandery.....\$45.00

## MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY, No. 2—VICKSBURG, WARREN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Monday of each month.

### OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                              |         |                          |             |
|------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|-------------|
| John D. Miles, P. E. C.....  | E. C.   | Henry W. Bowen.....      | Treasurer   |
| Charles H. Fife.....         | Gen'o   | Alexander M. Payton..... | Recorder    |
| Conway C. Floweree.....      | C. G.   | Charles G. Wright .....  | St. Bearer  |
| T. G. Birchett, P. E. C..... | Prelate | A. L. Jaquith .....      | Sw. Bearer  |
| Robert B. Chapman.....       | S. W.   | Albert A. Arnold.....    | Warder      |
| Frederic Speed, P. G. C..... | J. W.   | John W. Parkhurst....    | C. of Guard |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—John W. Powell, James J. Hayes, Edward C. Carroll, James K. Moore, Albert M. Lea.

MEMBERS—Charles E. Armstrong, Joseph Biedenbarn, Emile Bonelli, William M. Chamberlin, Samuel H. Childress, William E. Gilmore, Charles E. Gore, George L. Gurley, Charles E. Grant, A. J. Hood, William G. Kiger, William W. Lord, William J. McKee, Charles Pare, Miller R. Payne, John C. Pritchett, Lee Richardson, John D. Smith, Murray F. Smith, William J. Smith, L. J. Thomas, J. B. White, J. C. White, Henry Y. Wilson—41.

REINSTATED—T. G. Birchett, P. E. C.

DIED—William G. Paxton, P. G. C., October 26, 1898; John Schlottman, January 5, 1898; Phil R. Starr, September 3, 1898.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—James M. Gibson, Charles W. Gibson, William E. Kiesker, James S. King, B. T. Lawrence, William Stanton, William Curphey.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$41.00

#### LEXINGTON COMMANDERY, No. 3—LEXINGTON, HOLMES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                            |         |                       |             |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|
| C. Oltenburg, P. E. C..... | E. C.   | R. H. Baker.....      | Treasurer   |
| W. P. Tackett.....         | Gen'o   | P. A. Lindholm.....   | Recorder    |
| R. A. Stigler.....         | C. G.   | John Belford.....     | St. Bearer  |
| E. F. Noel.....            | Prelate | E. V. Ashley.....     | Sw. Bearer  |
| J. W. Jordan.....          | S. W.   | J. E. Staunfield..... | Warder      |
| J. H. McBee.....           | J. W.   | C. C. Swinney.....    | C. of Guard |

MEMBERS—H. P. Davis, J. H. Fuqua, W. T. Johnson—15.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$15.00

#### HOLLY SPRINGS COMMANDERY, No. 4—HOLLY SPRINGS, MARSHALL COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Monday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                           |         |                           |             |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|-------------|
| M. H. Leach, P. E. C..... | E. C.   | R. A. McWilliams.....     | Treasurer   |
| J. G. Leach.....          | Gen'o   | L. B. Mosby, P. E. C..... | Recorder    |
| W. B. Bradberry.....      | C. G.   | W. S. Hill.....           | St. Bearer  |
| G. C. Myers, P. E. C..... | Prelate | J. R. Horton.....         | Sw. Bearer  |
| B. F. Popham.....         | S. W.   | S. H. Pryor, P. E. C..... | Warder      |
| J. H. Athey.....          | J. W.   | J. W. Stephenson.....     | C. of Guard |

MEMBERS—H. D. Campbell, W. A. Heard, B. T. Kimbrough, J. L. Wilson—16.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$16.00

#### ROSALIE COMMANDERY, No. 5—NATCHEZ, ADAMS COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Saturday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                            |         |                    |             |
|----------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|
| J. C. French, P. G. C..... | E. C.   | G. W. Koontz.....  | Treasurer   |
| W. C. Hathcox.....         | Gen'o   | C. F. Merrick..... | Recorder    |
| L. A. Benoist.....         | C. G.   | H. Stedman.....    | St. Bearer  |
| E. G. DeLap, P. G. C.....  | Prelate | R. L. Parker.....  | Sw. Bearer  |
| William Stietenroth.....   | S. W.   | M. Neiheysel.....  | Warder      |
| F. S. Shaw, P. E. C.....   | J. W.   | C. M. Sawyer.....  | C. of Guard |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—W. G. Benbrook, P. G. C.; C. T. Chamberlain, John A. Dicks, Gus J. Bahin, J. Foggo Dixon, M. Beltzhoover, W. B. Irvine.

MEMBERS—T. Jeff. Adams, W. H. Aikman, Samuel D. Baker, Geo. M. Brown, James A. Clinton, John Conner, L. P. Conner, Aug. Day, C. F. Farrar, J. S. Fleming, J. S. Gaynor, E. J. Guice, W. H. Hendrick, S. P. Hornsby, W. J. Kaiser, H. L. Klapp, David King, R. F. Learned, C. Morris, T. Q. Munce, P. J. McCormick, C. H. McIlwaine, S. McDowell, Jacob



Peebles, S. Pennywitt, F. L. Rumble, W. Rutherford, M. A. Tyer, E. J. Van Court, B. D. Watkins—49.

REINSTATED—William Stietenroth.

DIED—J. J. Proby, October 28, 1898.

Dues to Grand Commandery. ....\$49.00

ST. CYR COMMANDERY, No. 6 — WATER VALLEY, YALOBUSHA COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| C. E. Romberger.....E. C.      | Joe Croom, P. E. C.....Treasurer |
| E. F. Christ.....Gen'o         | J. B. Pate, P. E. C.....Recorder |
| L. W. Dekle.....C. G.          | Alex. Kennedy.....St. Bearer     |
| William James.....Prelate      | J. B. Talbert.....Sw. Bearer     |
| G. J. Robertson.....S. W.      | D. H. Hallewell.....Warder       |
| G. D. Brown, P. E. C.....J. W. | R. H. Ramsey.....C. of Guard     |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—J. K. Fulson, P. G. C.; H. M. Romberger, P. G. C.; I. T. Blount, S. B. Brown, W. H. Price.

MEMBERS—W. H. Biles, J. V. Blackmeer, W. C. Blount, T. J. Binford, W. C. Boyd, C. H. Campbell, R. F. Cathey, C. R. Cock, J. F. Crosley, John Flack, H. A. Gant, H. Gibbons, J. T. Goodwin, J. D. Ha'le, F. B. Herron, F. L. Hope, J. S. Hudson, Jas. H. Johnson, J. S. Kettle, John Kirby, J. L. Kirby, J. T. Lay, R. C. Leland, A. A. Martin, A. C. Martin, J. W. McCorkle, A. W. McDonald, John R. Moore, W. E. Moreing, R. N. Owens, C. C. Pasco, D. C. Powell, J. B. Rogers, J. N. Rose, W. R. Ruffin, B. R. Scott, W. F. Shoffner, W. D. Shell, A. T. Smith, E. C. Smith, F. H. Smith, R. Spearman, Robert Somerville, T. F. Trainer, T. H. Walker, F. W. Weatherly, W. C. Winter, John Wright—65.

KNIGHTED—W. C. Boyd, J. F. Crosley, R. F. Cathey, J. S. Hudson, A. A. Martin, A. C. Martin, A. W. McDonald, John R. Moore, C. C. Pasco, J. N. Rose, F. H. Smith, Robert Somerville, J. B. Talbert, B. C. Williams.

MITTED—W. C. Shackelford, P. E. C.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—C. Montgomery.

DIED—B. C. Williams.

Dues to Grand Commandery. ....\$136.00

DEMOLAY COMMANDERY. No. 8—COLUMBUS, LOWNDES COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Friday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| C. L. Lincoln, P. E. C.....E. C. | M. A. Franklin.....Treasurer      |
| B. A. Weaver.....Gen'o           | C. W. Mills.....Recorder          |
| T. B. Franklin.....C. G.         | E. S. Moore.....St. Bearer        |
| G. W. Cox.....Prelate            | J. P. Martin.....Sw. Bearer       |
| H. M. Waddell.....S. W.          | J. P. Stansell.....Warder         |
| C. C. Buder.....J. W.            | D. S. McClannahan.....C. of Guard |

MEMBERS—J. S. Billups, Willis Banks, G. Y. Banks, C. E. Boykin, N. L. Davis, J. M. Easton, J. D. Guyton, J. W. Gardner, Jas. T. Harrison, W. R. Harrington, T. W. Harris, R. W. Hutchins, J. R. Mallory, Chas. G. McGee, W. C. McCullar, Hampden Osborne, Wm. D. Prowell, Frank Quinn, J. H. Stevens, W. H. Taylor, W. E. Warring, W. W. Westmoreland—35.

KNIGHTED—R. M. Hutchins, J. P. Martin, T. W. Harris, W. H. Taylor.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$55.00

Sir G. B. Wilmot, in last report, not accounted for.

### CYRENE COMMANDERY, No. 9—MERIDIAN, LAUDERDALE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Thursday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                              |         |                               |             |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| B. V. White .....            | E. C.   | W. S. Harris .....            | Treasurer   |
| W. H. Howard .....           | Gen'o   | H. C. Smith .....             | Recorder    |
| C. S. Eastman .....          | C. G.   | J. N. Melton .....            | St. Bearer  |
| D. B. Waddell, P. E. C ..... | Prelate | J. A. Kelly .....             | Sw. Bearer  |
| R. E. Moody .....            | S. W.   | J. M. Buchanan, P. E. C ..... | Warder      |
| J. H. Slottzfus .....        | J. W.   | A. J. Peck .....              | C. of Guard |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—G. Smallshaf, J. H. Wright, O. A. Harrison, E. J. Martin.

MEMBERS—W. H. Armstrong, B. J. Allen, F. W. Bross, P. E. Blalock, W. E. Baskin, F. D. Bradley, F. V. Brahan, W. D. Cameron, J. W. Collins, I. C. Carter, C. C. Coffee, I. H. Crane, B. J. Carter, Joseph Faken, Charles Elmire, T. R. Harrison, T. B. Holloman, C. R. Hoye, W. B. Harbeson, L. H. Hulse, C. L. Gaston, P. S. Gardiner, J. T. Iglehart, Rev. J. E. Jones, W. N. Jones, John Kamper, E. B. Keeling, W. F. Kennedy, A. A. Kin-cannon, F. M. Keen, T. B. Lamb, T. C. Lyle, I. A. Mooser, C. C. Miller, Rev. Irvin Miller, B. McClanahan, C. W. Morgan, A. D. McRaven, C. E. Newcomer, C. M. Rubush, D. A. Ray, W. B. Rogers, A. J. Russell, J. R. Smith, J. L. Spinks, S. A. Scruggs, J. H. Short, F. E. Smith, C. A. Stov-all, J. A. Treadaway, J. R. Tackett, J. B. Watts, T. L. Wainwright, M. W. Woodbury, R. J. Wright, S. E. Wilson—72.

HONORARY MEMBER—C. S. Starkweather.

KNIGHTED—W. H. Armstrong, B. J. Allen, F. D. Bradley, J. A. Kelly, B. J. Carter, A. D. McRaven, F. M. Keen.

AFFILIATED—J. R. Tackett, J. H. Slottzfus.

REINSTATED—C. C. Miller.

DIMITTED—J. R. McIntosh.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES—B. F. Parke.

DIED—J. S. Houston, February 26; W. E. Keller.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$107.00

### IVANHOE COMMANDERY, No. 10—OKOLONA, CHICKASAW COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 3d Thursday of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                                 |         |                              |             |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|-------------|
| W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C. .... | E. C.   | T. W. Williams .....         | Treasurer   |
| James Gordon .....              | Gen'o   | Frank Burkitt, P. E. C. .... | Recorder    |
| R. M. Sadler .....              | C. G.   | Z. T. Harper .....           | St. Bearer  |
| J. M. Davis .....               | Prelate | W. J. Stockett .....         | Sw. Bearer  |
| J. R. Price .....               | S. W.   | W. I. Harrell .....          | Warder      |
| J. M. Dodds .....               | J. W.   | John Matzen .....            | C. of Guard |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—P. M. Savery, P. G. C.; E. M. Walker, N. G. Augustus, W. M. Buchanan, John S. Cobb.

MEMBERS—G. W. Anglin, J. W. Abernethy, J. L. Arnold, W. L. Bur-

nett, C. W. Bolton, J. S. Brooks, W. H. D. Crawford, W. A. Canty, W. J. Curtis, N. Cayce, George G. Dillard, J. T. Davis, B. B. Fitzpatrick, J. T. Garrett, D. H. Goff, W. H. Griffin, J. F. Hodges, J. T. Harris, George S. Henderson, C. B. Hood, B. M. McCullough, L. B. McCullough, W. C. Peeler, G. L. Russell, J. Q. Robbins, Jerry Seale, R. L. Thomas, J. M. Trice, W. X. Wilson—46.

KNIGHTED—J. S. Brooks, J. L. Arnold, R. L. Thomas.

DIMITTED—J. W. Keyes, G. L. Ligon, O. L. Jacobi.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$57.00

NOTE.—John Matzen was not knighted until after the 27th of December, and was subsequently elected C. of G.

COUER DE LION COMMANDERY, No. 13—PORT GIBSON.

No Reports for 1897-1898. Membership reduced to less than a quorum.

DELTA COMMANDERY, No. 16—GREENVILLE.

No Report for 1897 or 1898.

ABERDEEN COMMANDERY, No. 17—ABERDEEN, MONROE COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                             |         |                           |             |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------------|-------------|
| J. W. Eckford.....          | E. C.   | S. H. Berg.....           | Treasurer   |
| J. J. McDonald.....         | Gen'o   | O. L. McKay, P. E. C..... | Recorder    |
| H. Campbell.....            | C. G.   | E. W. Thomas.....         | St. Bearer  |
| F. P. Jenkins, P. G. C..... | Prelate | I. A. Mayfield.....       | Sw. Bearer  |
| G. S. Clopton.....          | S. W.   | A. A. Posey, P. E. C..... | Warder      |
| E. W. Holmes.....           | J. W.   | T. B. Holmes.....         | C. of Guard |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—W. G. Sykes, W. B. Walker, W. H. Clifton.

MEMBERS—J. A. Bowen, W. A. Charping, L. G. Nesbit, Willis Puckett—19.

REINSTATED—J. J. McDonald—left off in 1897 in error; Willis Puckett.

DIMITTED—C. W. Gibson.

SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DURS—E. G. Smith, A. J. Smith.

Dues to Grand Commandery.....\$19.00

ST. ELMO COMMANDERY, No. 18—BROOKHAVEN, LINCOLN COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 2d Friday of each month.

OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                             |         |                       |             |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|
| W. H. Seavey.....           | E. C.   | Z. D. Davis.....      | Treasurer   |
| John M. Maynor.....         | Gen'o   | Chas. Heuck.....      | Recorder    |
| W. F. Parsons.....          | C. G.   | E. H. Easterling..... | St. Bearer  |
| J. E. Seavey, P. E. C.....  | Prelate | H. A. Tibbs.....      | Sw. Bearer  |
| C. E. Grafton, P. E. C..... | S. W.   | C. M. Waterman.....   | Warder      |
| C. E. Batty.....            | J. W.   | Z. P. Jones.....      | C. of Guard |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDER—E. McCormick.

MEMBERS—Lee O. Bridewell, F. W. Beal, C. L. Carroll, Thomas E. Dixon, D. L. Easterling, D. D. Ewing, J. M. Elliott, N. Greener, G. C. Hoskins, S. W. Hoskins, H. K. Hill, J. A. Hudgens, B. F. Jones, D. J. Link, F. M. Lee, J. A. McCormick, E. M. Mason, H. McColgan, Henry Meyer, A. E. Moreton, H. Maynor, Mauson Ryals, W. R. Simmons, J. B. Tarsney, J. B. Tennant, Samuel Wilkinson, T. O. Watkins, A. J. Whitworth, W. L. Wallace—42.

KNIGHTED—Z. D. Davis, J. A. Hudgens, Z. P. Jones, B. F. Jones, D. J. Link, John Maynor, H. Maynor, H. A. Tibbs, C. M. Waterman, Samuel Wilkinson.

DIED—A. E. Maxwell, August 29; J. A. Hoskins, Oct. 7.

Dues to Grand Commandery .....\$92.00

#### COAST COMMANDERY, No. 19—BILOXI, HARRISON COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 3d Thursday of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1899.

|                     |         |                       |             |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|
| E. E. Clement.....  | E. C.   | L. Lopez.....         | Treasurer   |
| G. Edward Park..... | Gen'o   | H. J. Meaut.....      | Recorder    |
| E. W. Morrill.....  | C. G.   | John Carraway .....   | St. Bearer  |
| T. W. Grayson.....  | Prelate | C. W. Wachenfeld..... | Sw. Bearer  |
| J. C. Bradford..... | S. W.   | T. H. Gleason.....    | Warder      |
| J. J. Lemon.....    | J. W.   | R. B. Harrison.....   | C. of Guard |

PAST EMINENT COMMANDERS—E. Thompson, H. T. Howard, J. F. McCormick, P. G. M.

MEMBERS—W. T. Bolton, L. R. Bowen, J. P. Carter, W. K. M. Duke, J. B. Garrard, Wm. Gorenflo, N. C. Hill, C. D. Lancaster, J. H. Neville, Collins Phelps, W. A. White, T. H. Warren—27.

KNIGHTED—J. J. Lemon, John Carraway, T. H. Warren.

Dues to Grand Commandery. ....\$42.00

The names of L. B. Belt, E. J. Bowers, E. L. Browne, L. D. Herrick, Isaac Mars, H. H. Richardson, T. J. Roselle and A. D. Shelton do not appear in these returns, as they belong and pay dues to other Commanderies. They only assisted to organize this Commandery. I should not have reported them in last return.

H. J. MEAUT.

#### WEST POINT COMMANDERY, No. 20—WEST POINT, CLAY COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, last Tuesday night of each month.

##### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                      |         |                       |             |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|
| O. L. Jacobi.....    | E. C.   | John J. Stevens.....  | Treasurer   |
| Robert McCreath..... | Gen'o   | J. H. Turbeville..... | Recorder    |
| S. E. F. Rose.....   | C. G.   | J. A. Hill .....      | St. Bearer  |
| Oscar Heywood.....   | Prelate | J. W. Keyes.....      | Sw. Bearer  |
| William Johnson..... | S. W.   | C. W. Gibson.....     | Warder      |
| F. G. Hawkins.....   | J. W.   | E. L. Sherwood.....   | C. of Guard |

MEMBERS—A. H. Bays, F. A. Critz, J. R. Campbell, M. W. Chapman, J. W. Caldwell, R. C. Gibson, V. S. Hurlburt, S. L. Hearn, J. W. Heard, J. E. Johnson, C. S. Joiner, H. L. Joiner, Ed Joiner, H. A. Limbarger, W. M. McIntosh, S. M. Roane, B. Y. Rhodes, B. W. Stewart, R. M. Trotter, L. F. West, W. L. West—33.

KNIGHTED—V. S. Hurlburt, J. A. Hill, F. G. Hawkins, Oscar Hey.

wood, William Johnson, J. E. Johnson, C. S. Joiner, H. A. Limbarger, Robert McCreath, S. M. Roane, John J. Stevens, E. L. Sherwood, J. H. Turbeville, R. M. Trotter, B. Y. Rhodes, R. C. Gibson, F. A. Critz, B. W. Stewart, H. L. Joiner, J. R. Campbell, S. L. Hearn, L. F. West, J. W. Heard, M. W. Chapman, A. A. Bays, W. M. McIntosh, J. W. Caldwell. Ed. Joiner, W. L. West.

AFFILIATED—C. W. Gibson, O. L. Jacobi, J. W. Keys, S. E. F. Rose. Dues to Grand Commandery, for 27 Orders conferred.....\$145.00

NOTE.—Organized under Dispensation issued May 14, 1898. Chartered February 6, 1899, as West Point, No. 20; constituted by Grand Commander John S. Cobb, and officers elected and installed March 18, 1899, as follows:

C. W. Gibson, E. C.; J. W. Keyes, Gen'o; E. Joiner, Capt.-Gen'l; J. W. Caldwell, Prelate; R. C. Gibson, S. Warden; B. Y. Rhodes, J. Warden; J. J. Stevens, Tr.; R. M. Trotter, Rec.; Wm. Johnson, St. Bearer; R. McCreath, Sw. Bearer; C. S. Joiner, Warder; J. R. Campbell, Capt. of Guard.

### HATTIESBURG COMMANDERY, No. 21—HATTIESBURG, PERRY COUNTY.

Regular Conclaves, 4th Monday night of each month.

#### OFFICERS FOR 1898.

|                       |         |                      |             |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|-------------|
| J. P. Carter.....     | E. C.   | C. Z. Stevens.....   | Treasurer   |
| A. A. Montague.....   | Gen'o   | J. W. Montague.....  | Recorder    |
| W. M. Conner.....     | C. G.   | S. J. Pettigrew..... | St. Bearer  |
| B. F. Jones.....      | Prelate | T. L. Montague.....  | Sw. Bearer  |
| T. E. Ross.....       | S. W.   | T. M. Ferguson.....  | Warder      |
| A. E. Carmichael..... | J. W.   | R. S. Ellis.....     | C. of Guard |

MEMBERS—T. E. Blalock, John F. Champenois, S. E. Cowan, T. M. Curtis, O. W. Conner, William Dunbar, M. Dunn, E. M. Ellis, S. C. Eaton, D. M. Gatlin, S. T. Garraway, John T. Grant, N. C. Hill, A. C. Lovell, John W. Montague, W. R. McDonald, A. H. McSwain, A. M. McCallum, John McDuff, S. E. Travis—32.

KNIGHTED—Albert E. Carmichael, John F. Champenois, W. M. Conner, O. W. Conner, Samuel E. Cowan, Thos. M. Curtis, Michael Dunn, Elijah M. Ellis, R. S. Ellis, Samuel C. Eaton, Chas. M. Ferguson, S. T. Garraway, John T. Grant, D. M. Gatlin, A. C. Lovell, T. L. Montague, Adrian A. Montague, John W. Montague, H. M. McCallum, W. R. McDonald, A. H. McSwain, John McDuffie, John M. McInnis, Samuel J. Pettigrew, Theophilus E. Ross, Charles E. Stevens, S. E. Travis.

NOTE.—This Commandery was organized under Dispensation granted December 12, 1898, to J. L. Spinks, as E. C.; J. P. Carter, as Gen'o; P. E. Black, as Capt.-Gen'l; Wm. Dunbar, J. T. Iglehart, W. H. Howard, A. J. Peck, F. E. Smith, W. B. Harbeson. Chartered as No. 21, February 6, 1899; constituted by Grand Commander, and officers, as above, installed, March 22, 1899.

Dues to Grand Commandery, for 27 Orders conferred.....\$135.00

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

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(For the year ending December 27, 1898.)

|                                                   |          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Total chartered Commanderies in Jurisdiction..... | 14       |
| Under Dispensation (since chartered).....         | 2        |
| Knighted.....                                     | 99       |
| Affiliated.....                                   | 6        |
| Reinstated.....                                   | 5        |
| Dimitted.....                                     | 7        |
| Died.....                                         | 10       |
| Suspended for non-payment of dues.....            | 11       |
| Total membership.....                             | 548      |
| (Increase of 65 over 1897.)                       |          |
| Total dues for 1898.....                          | \$974 00 |





WM. G. PAXTON,  
Grand Commander, 1878.



*This Page is Set Apart*  
IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF

*R. E. Sir W. G. Paxton,*

OF MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY NO. 2.

*Grand Commander, 1878.*

*Grand Master of Masons, 1889.*

*Most Sinistrous Master and Grand Council,*  
*1877-1889.*

---

In war, in peace, in just cause, he was distinguished for patriotism, valor, sound judgment. He was ready to labor and to sacrifice for his brethren and friends. A good citizen, a sincere Christian, a moral man.

---

"His love was like the Sun and Moon,  
Embracing all beneath his beams;  
And every grief that mortal's share  
Found pity in his tender tears."

---



Wm. G. PAXTON,  
Grand Commander, 1878

*This Page is Set Apart*  
IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF  
***R. E. Sir W. S. Paxton,***  
OF MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY NO. 2.  
*Grand Commander, 1878.*  
*Grand Master of Masons, 1889.*  
*Most Illustrious Master Grand Council,*  
*1877-1889.*

---

In war, in peace, in pestilence, he was distinguished for patriotism, valor, courage undaunted—always ready to labor and to sacrifice for his brethren and friends. A good citizen, a sincere Christian, a model Mason.

---

“His love was like the liberal air—  
Embracing all, to cheer and bless ;  
And ev’ry grief that mortals share  
Found pity in his tenderness.”

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*This Page is Set Apart*

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF

*Sir John Schlottman,*

OF MAGNOLIA COMMANDERY NO. 2.

*Grand Captain of the Suard, 1893.*

DIED IN VICKSBURG, JANUARY 5, 1898.

---

*Sir John M. Cain,*

OF MISSISSIPPI COMMANDERY NO. 1.

*Grand Captain of the Suard, 1895.*

DIED IN JACKSON, FEBRUARY 28, 1898.

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Faithful and vigilant as Sentinel in the Outer  
Courts of these Earthly Asylums, they  
sheathed their swords to enter  
the Sanctuary of Eter-  
nal Rest.

*In Loving Remembrance*

—OF—

**Sir Phin R. Starr,**

*Magnolia Commandery No. 2.*

**Sir J. J. Proby,**

*Rosalie Commandery No. 5.*

**Sir B. C. Williams,**

*St. Cyr Commandery No. 6.*

**Sir A. E. Maxwell,**

**Sir James A. Hoskins,**

*St. Elmo Commandery No. 18.*

**Sir J. E. Houston,**

**Sir W. E. Keller,**

*Cyrene Commandery No. 9.*

Who Entered Into Rest During the  
Year 1898.

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" Fast as the rolling seasons bring  
The hour of fate to those we love,  
Each pearl that leaves the broken string  
Is set in friendship's crown above."

100

101

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# REPORT ON FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE.

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*To the R. E. Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Mississippi :*

The undersigned has received and briefly digested the proceedings of the annexed list of Grand Commanderies and other Templar-governing Bodies. We regret the absence of several of the prominent Jurisdictions from the list, among them Pennsylvania, Tennessee and others. Should they reach us before February 1st, and we are in a condition to do so, we will give them the courteous consideration they merit at our hands :

|                             |               |                     |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Alabama.....                | 1898          | Montana.....        | 1898          |
| Arkansas.....               | 1898          | Nebraska.....       | 1898          |
| Arizona.....                | 1898          | New Hampshire.....  | 1898          |
| California.....             | 1898          | New Jersey.....     | 1898          |
| Colorado.....               | 1898          | New York.....       | 1898          |
| Connecticut.....            | 1898          | North Carolina..... | 1898          |
| District of Columbia.....   | 1898          | North Dakota.....   | Not received  |
| Florida.....                | Not received  | Ohio.....           | 1898          |
| Georgia.....                | 1898          | Oklahoma.....       | 1898          |
| Illinois.....               | 1898          | Oregon.....         | 1898          |
| Indiana.....                | 1898          | Pennsylvania.....   | Not received  |
| Indian Territory.....       | 1897 and 1898 | South Dakota.....   | 1898          |
| Iowa.....                   | 1898          | Tennessee.....      | Not received  |
| Kansas.....                 | 1898          | Texas.....          | 1898          |
| Kentucky.....               | 1898          | Vermont.....        | 1898          |
| Louisiana.....              | 1898          | Virginia.....       | 1897 and 1898 |
| Maine.....                  | 1898          | Washington.....     | 1898          |
| Maryland.....               | 1898          | West Virginia.....  | 1898          |
| Mass. and Rhode Island..... | 1898          | Wisconsin.....      | 1898          |
| Michigan.....               | 1898          | Wyoming.....        | 1898          |
| Minnesota.....              | 1898          | Canada.....         | 1898          |
| Missouri.....               | 1898          |                     |               |

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## ALABAMA—1898.

The Annual Couclave was held in the city of Selma, May 11th and 12th. There were present R. E. Sir Henry H. Matthews, Grand Commander; E. Sir H. Clay Armstrong, Grand Recorder; eight Past Grand Commanders, quite a number of Past Commanders, and the representatives of but seven Sub. Commanderies, the last being No. 16. There were also fifteen Grand Representatives, including Bro. Matthews for Mississippi, in attendance. The opening was preceded by some welcoming speeches and refreshments.

The Grand Commander's address is quite a lengthy document. He incorporates in it the reports of inspection from each member of his staff, a plan that does not commend itself to our good judgment. The R. E. starts out with the statement that the earlier Templars were "actuated by noble impulses," etc. Our opinion, we regret to say, does not coincide entirely with this one. That there were some of the bravest and best men of their time enrolled among the early Templars there is no doubt, but it is equally true that in the zenith of its power the Order of the Temple was a hot-bed of licentiousness, rapine, murder and all sorts and kinds of devilment. When the Order was suppressed it richly deserved its fate, but it was funny to contemplate the spectacle of the devil suppressing Satan! That they were brave and invincible fighters history attests, but the Captain of our Salvation is opposed to war and bloodshed; hence, we should exult more in the faithfulness of our modern Soldiers of the Cross than in the originators of our Order.

We beg to suggest to our brother and to others that the title, "Supreme Grand Architect," is somewhat malapropos, when used in Templar literature, while it is the correct thing in the fundamental degrees of Masonry.

He notes the slow growth of the Order in Alabama, and cites a lack of interest in Capitular Masonry as a primal cause. It occurs to us that the decadence of interest in all the branches of Masonry, particularly in the South, is found in the multitude of social and insurance orders that have sprung up all over the country, and the cry is, "Still they come." The fees for entrance into these wild cat insurance organizations are trifling, compared with the sum necessary to be paid before one can enter the Commandery. We confess our inability to prescribe a remedy for the evils that are upon us.

He issued several dispensations, but all of them for practical purposes.

He made no decisions of interest to ourselves. Appropriate mention is made of the magnanimous dead, both of his own and sister Grand Jurisdctions. The address, as a whole, is an elegant paper.

The Proceedings contain nothing of general interest. Finances in a healthy state. Peace and harmony prevail. Total membership, 288—a loss of 15!

Bro. George F. Moore is the architect and builder of Correspondence, which covers but thirty-two pages, and considers the following topics: Historical (of Alabama); the Grand Encampment; the Ritual; Proceedings; Reports on Correspondence and Statistics. No reference is made to Mississippi.

Sir Phil p Milhous is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### ARKANSAS—1898.

The twenty-sixth Annual was held in the city of Fayetteville, April 19th. R. E. Sir George G. Latta, G. C. Only four of the Grand



Officers were present. Seven Sub. Commanderies were represented, out of twelve.

The address is a well-written business document. It shows that the Order is not in good shape in that Jurisdiction, which is to be regretted. The following clipping will throw some light on the situation. The R. E., speaking of Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 12, the charter of which had been arrested, said :

As you will see from the report of the visiting officer, two or three members of the Commandery have not paid their fees for the Orders, though they appeared in good standing, and the visiting officer was assured by the nine members present that the money for these delinquents would be sent to the Grand Recorder in twenty days. This has not been complied with. Under date of March 25, 1898, the Grand Recorder wrote me that, upon examination of the books of that Commandery, he found that but few of the members of that Commandery had ever paid any dues, and that they owed from \$2.50 to \$20 each ; and that there were five members that have never paid the fees for the Orders ; and that on August 24, 1897, the time the charter was arrested, a motion was made and seconded to remit or cancel all dues against the members of the Commandery to date ; and which was carried, and which was supposed to wipe out all indebtedness and place the whole membership in good standing on the books. The Grand Recorder desired to know if he would be justified in issuing certificates of good standing to the Sir Knights of that Commandery to enable them to affiliate with other Commanderies. My answer to this is contained under the head of Decisions, as reported by me.

I would recommend, in this connection, that some step be taken by this Grand Commandery in reference to those Sir Knights who have not paid the fees for the Orders, inasmuch as Ivanhoe Commandery is still in arrears to the Grand Commandery.

No wonder the Commandery went down under such management.

His Dispensations were few and for proper purposes. From his Decisions we quote :

Second. Quere. Can Sir Knights keep their uniforms at home, and put them on and wear them to and from the Commandery ?

Answer. It is not proper for a Knight Templar, as a rule, to wear his uniform to and from meetings of the Commandery. There should be a place provided for the keeping of the uniforms at the Asylum. If such place is not provided, then the proper thing for a Knight Templar to do is to put his uniform in his box and his sword in his scabbard, and thus carry them to place of meeting. It is against the established rule of our Order for Knights Templar to do anything that might subject themselves to the criticism of making an effort to display themselves in their Templar uniforms ; and Knights Templar should only appear in public with their uniforms on Masonic occasions.

Referring to the clause in regard to Templars doing nothing to call forth criticism for making efforts to "display themselves in Templar uniforms," we beg to inquire why the same rule would not apply in regard to attending divine service in uniform. It certainly has the effect of making its wearers conspicuous, a thing always out of place in God's house.

The proceedings were routine and local.

An assessment of 50 cents per capita was levied to enable the treasury to meet the expenses of the body, although the treasury had a balance on hand of \$422.74. We suspect they were getting ready to buy a house and lot in Pittsburg for headquarters.

Total membership, 502—a gain of 8.

The report on Correspondence occupies half a page.

The doxology and signature are not quite as long as the report proper, but there is room for improvement, and we hope it will come.

R. E. Sir Jesse Mapes Dill is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued. .

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#### ARIZONA—1897.

The fifth annual was held in the cave of the Copper Queen Mine, at Bisbee, November 10th. There were present at the opening R. E. Sir John McQuaid Ormsby, Grand Commander ; E. Sir George J. Roskrige, Grand Recorder ; two Past Grand Commanders, nine Grand Representatives (not including ours), and the representatives of three Sub. Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address covers less than three pages, but as that was all the space he seemed to need, we are not disposed to complain. We copy his opening, so you may see where they met :

Again we have assembled as a Grand Body, and I extend you all the right hand of fellowship and a knightly greeting.

Sir Knights, you are certainly to be congratulated, not only for the prosperous year that has just passed, but also upon the happy selection of the place at which to hold the Fifth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

What can be more romantic, wierd and awe-inspiring than to hold a session of the Grand Commandery within the dark cavern of the majestic mountains which surround us on every side ? Lighted with electricity, that harbinger of civilization, which causes the stalactites to glisten in endless hues and cast their queer, fantastic shadows around us.

We have read of sessions of Grand Commanderies being held upon the top of high mountains, but are we not the first to go down into the bosom of mother earth to find a secluded retreat to commune with nature and our God ?

Let us, therefore, be thankful that our lines are cast in such pleasant places.

We reckon you *are* the first, and, while the incident is rather interesting and romantic, we prefer to remain on top, or above ground, until we are dead.

He pays brief tribute to the knightly dead, and says no questions of law have been submitted to him. He commissioned three Grand Representatives. He recommended the adoption of Sumner's tactics, thanked his brethren for the honor conferred upon him, and closed.

The proceedings were routine and local. The Grand Representatives were introduced, and he of Oregon, Bro. Belden, made a neat little speech.

The treasury is in good shape, containing a balance of \$514.75. The Mississippi resolutions anent Grand Encampment were submitted and sat down on with great unanimity, of course. As our Arizona brethren grow older they will increase in wisdom—perhaps.

The Grand Commander-elect, after being installed, made a short speech, a paragraph of which we copy :

Sir Knights, the true Templar never forgets that, were it not for his membership in the Blue Lodge and Chapter, he would not be entitled to the orders of Knighthood; the true Templar need not be coaxed to attend the meetings of the Subordinate Bodies just named; he knows his duty and performs it. Therefore no occasion should ever arise that has a tendency to produce the least friction in this jurisdiction between the brother or companion and the Templar; on the contrary, we can well join hands and stand shoulder to shoulder in the performance of our several Masonic obligations, imbued with the same thought, animated by the desire, to spread the rays of Masonic light and progress everywhere. And, Sir Knights, if we so act and work, the world will witness an example of unanimity and concord seldom excelled, and we ourselves will thereby become better Templars, better husbands, better fathers, better friends and better citizens.

There is much more sound sense in the above than there was in the opposition of the distinguished brother to the Mississippi resolutions.

Total membership, 125—a gain of three.

There is no report on Correspondence, but a committee was appointed for the current year.

R. E. Rickener N. Fredericks is G. C.; E. Sir J. Roskruge, re-elected Grand Recorder.

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#### CALIFORNIA—1898.

The fortieth Annual was held in the city of San Francisco, April 21. There were present R. E. Sir George D. Metcalf, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Thomas H. Caswell, Grand Recorder; all the balance of the staff, fourteen Past Grand Commanders, eighteen Grand Representatives, and delegates from thirty-five of the thirty-seven Sub. Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address covers thirty-nine pages, and is a complete *resume* of his administration. He reports a large degree of prosperity, a "revival" of interest being the usual experience in the Triennial year, as that assemblage is something of a Mecca to some folks.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the knightly dead.

He granted quite a number of dispensations, among them one to have the Commandery photographs taken!

Much space is occupied by reports of inspectors of the Sub. Commanderies, in which we find nothing of special interest to you.

#### PROCEEDINGS.

Grand Recorder Caswell's report shows a net increase in members for the year of sixty-three.

Grand Treasurer's report shows total receipts of \$6,570.93; expenditures, \$3,859.20; balance, \$2,711.12.

The Triennial Committee reported that they had sent a Messenger to Pittsburg to secure quarters for the Grand Commandery headquarters;

that the Messenger reported that there were but two hash houses unengaged, and they were so far below par as hotels that they declined to buy them. Fortunately, however, some enterprising party in the smoky city was erecting a new, two-story hostelry, which they succeeded in buying (terms private), and would run it on the European plan. A copy of the contract of purchase was on file, subject to inspection by those in interest.

Most of the business transacted was of local interest only,

#### CORRESPONDENCE,

This important report is, as usual, injected into the very bowels of the minutes, where, in our judgment, it does not belong, as, by this course, the Grand Commandery endorses all and singular the idiosyncracies and sound deliverancies of its author, without distinction. So far as the work of the present committee goes, the custom is all right, but Bro. Davis' successors may not be as wise and "sound on the goose" as he is, and trouble may result, as happened between Maryland and Louisiana some years since. The usual custom is, and we think the proper one, to publish these reports as an appendix, neither endorsing or otherwise the contents thereof, which leaves the committees to fight their own battles, and relieves the Grand Bodies of all responsibility in the matter. Bro. Davis' report, like all his literary and editorial efforts, is first-class. He reviews most of the transactions of the Templar Legislatures of the world, occupying ninety-nine pages of the pamphlet, Mississippi for 1867 getting three pages of courteous attention.

Under Illinois, and reviewing Bro. Smith's report, he has this to say :

It is said that the Sir Knight prefers the Commandery to the Lodge or Chapter, then we say that he does not understand the first principles of knighthood, which are exalted companionship and equality among members. Gentlemen do not seek membership in a society where, if the conversation turn upon matters relating to other subjects, they would be excluded therefrom. This is the case in a Commandery, where the conversation often turns upon Lodge and Chapter matters, from which the non-affiliate of those bodies should be and is properly excluded, to the very great embarrassment of all present. Make the membership continuous, and you cement the bodies more closely in an indissoluble union and remove all objections of the Master Mason to the higher degrees.

Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment legislation is getting too far apart now, and it becomes the duty of every Templar to see that they are upon the same level of perpetual brotherhood, and for the best interests of all who belong to this ancient fraternity of Freemasonry. The second question, though, to the front now, because of the friction it often, too often, creates, is that of *perpetual jurisdiction*. It is a minor question, however, to what that of continuous membership will become before many years.

All of which is very sensible and right. No good Templar neglects his Lodge duties, nor ever forgets that the Masonic connection of the Order of the Temple is the most respectable and important aid to its popularity in the world. "If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Bro. Davis' review of Mississippi is of the administration of Bro. Buchanan, and is fully courteous and fraternal. We excerpt:

A portrait of Grand Commander Buchanan appears on the opening page, and also in this volume of the journal a portrait and biographical sketch of the illustrious Mississippi Mason, Giles Mumford Hillyer, Grand Mas'er of Masons in 1855, Grand Commander in 1859, Grand High Priest in 1860, and General Grand Scribe of the General Grand Chapter the same year. He was a dignitary of the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction at the time of his death. At the Lodge of Sorrow held by the Supreme Council after his death, the illustrious Albert Pike, who had known him long and well, said of Bro. Hillyer:

"Of one I have promised specially to speak, promised my own heart which demanded it of me. At our last meeting our illustrious Brother Hillyer, as Grand Minister of State, pronounced the opening eulogy upon the dead for whom we then held a Lodge of Sorrow. No one of us will ever forget the first sentence that he uttered as he stood there feeble and emaciated, the tone of his fine voice and the exquisite beauty of his modulation and cadences more sadly sympathetic than ever. It is past the noon of spring, he said; the clock of time long since recorded the year's low twelve, and the months in stately progress are approaching its high meridian. Alas! the leafless autumn of his life had come; the hand of death had already touched his generous heart and he had then begun to die."

Bro. Hillyer was a remarkable man, and was beloved wherever known. His mantle fell on his son-in-law, our Fred, and right worthily is it worn!

He quotes freely from Grand Commander Buchanan's address, the minutes and our report throwing in a word of pleasant comment occasionally, which is appreciated.

We should be glad to devote more time to our brother's excellent report, but have been sick with a cold all day and don't feel like work. May God bless him.

R. E. Robert Morris Powers is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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#### COLORADO—1898.

The twenty-third Annual was held in the city of Denver, June 7th. There were present R. E. George J. Dunbaugh, Grand Commander; E. Ed. C. Parmelee, Grand Recorder; all the balance of the staff, eleven Past Grand Commanders, several other Past Grand Officers, and the representatives of twenty-one Sub. Commanderies, together with those of twenty Grand Commanderies.

The address is a good one. After extending a hearty greeting and welcome to the members, he indulges in a little patriotic war talk, all of which was very appropriate and meets our hearty approval. If there ever was a righteous war, and there were several of them, ours with Spain was one of the most righteous of all; and that God Himself was on our side is demonstrated by the events that followed each other in rapid succession during its continuance.

He issued but four dispensations, and they for practical purposes.

His decisions were unimportant. He reported that twelve Commanderies were religious, according to "Grant's Tactics," on Easter Sunday; and that three were pious in uniform on Ascension Day.

His visitations were above the average in number.

He recommended a change in the time of meeting of the Grand Body from June to November, and in response to the recommendation the Grand Commandery was adjourned to meet directly after the Grand Lodge, which meets in September. It would have been better to have met before than after Grand Lodge. That is our experience. Though comparatively short, the address comes up to the average for excellence in all respects.

The Triennial Committee asked for \$500 to buy a hotel and furnish a side-board at Pittsburg, which, after "considerable discussion," was granted. In order to economize and have the means for the Pittsburg blow-out, they reduced the Grand Recorder's salary from \$500 to \$300, which must awaken in the mind of that faithful and efficient officer a feeling of profound—disgust. "Great is Diana of the Templars!"

The retiring Grand Commander was made happy by the presentation of a P. G. C. jewel. Total membership, 1,655—a *loss of one*.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Our old friend and brother Orahod is the progenitor of this part of the pamphlet. The report covers fifty-seven pages, reviews the doings of forty-six governing bodies of Templary, in his usual courteous and modest style, Mississippi for 1897 included in the list.

Under Alabama we find this:

An infant son of the Grand Commander, eight months old, was brought into the Commandery by his father, speeches made, etc. We doubt the propriety or desirability of such a proceeding, and personally hope it may remain unique.

We doubt, not only the "propriety," but the good sense and judgment of the performance.

Our good brother don't talk much, but when he does he generally talks sense, as in this instance. When a Templar's intellect is only sufficiently strong to enable him to see the beauties of a cocked hat, baldrick, belt and "trusty claymore," he is not likely to hanker after polite or Templar literature. "He is not built that way," hence is in favor of abolishing these committees and spending the amount they cost in ministering to the physical instead of the intellectual stomach. If Templary depended for its perpetuity on this class of its membership, it would be dead and buried in less than a decade of years, and it ought to be.

Bro. Orahod's attention to Mississippi at Biloxi is full and fraternal, although he makes no comments. Sorry we can't give more space to his report, but time is called.

R. E. John M. Maxwell is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

## CONNECTICUT—1898.

The seventy-first Annual was held in the city of Hartford, March 15. There were present R. E. Sir Samuel M. Bronson, Grand Commander; R. E. Eli C. Birdsey, Grand Recorder; all the staff except two, eighteen Past Grand Commanders, thirty-one Grand Representatives, over fifty Past Commanders, and representatives of eleven Sub. Commanderies. Among the visitors were the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Warder of the G. E. and the Grand Commander of New Hampshire.

The Grand Commander's address is a well-written, but exceptionally brief, resume of his official acts and deliverances. His visitations were quite extensive; his dispensations proper. He made no decisions. Among his recommendations the suggestion is made that each Commandery add the cost of uniform to the fees for the Orders, and that the candidate be clothed as soon as dubbed. He also recommended that a suitable amount be voted for use of Grand Body at Pittsburg.

The report of Grand Treasurer showed a balance on hand of \$666.68—\$550 of which was set apart for expenses of just four officers of the Grand Commandery and for expenses of headquarters at Pittsburg.

The Grand Recorder reports 181 dubbed during the year and a gain in membership of 142, both facts being remarkable in a jurisdiction of only eleven Commanderies.

The Mississippi resolutions were referred to the Law Committee, and were given courteous consideration by that committee, as their report, which we copy, will show:

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the communication of J. L. Power, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, concerning powers of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and the powers and rights of Grand Commanderies, respectfully represent that the time between the reference of this matter to this committee and the close of the present session is not sufficient to give such consideration to this matter as its importance demands.

We therefore request permission to submit our report before the next Triennial of the Grand Encampment of the United States to the Grand Commander of this State, with the request that, if our report shall be approved by the Grand Commandery, he present it with his approval to the representatives of this Grand Commandery at the coming Triennial Couclave, to be holden at Pittsburg in October next.

The representatives of this Grand Commandery are to give careful and full consideration to this report in casting their votes upon any amendments to the Constitution and laws of the Grand Encampment.

While we have no hope that so sensible a move as that contemplated by these resolutions will have any considerable support in the Grand Encampment, still it is pleasant to have our brethren of Connecticut accord to our opinion that courtesy and attention due from one body of Christian gentlemen to another.

The Grand Commander of New Hampshire presented, in an elegant, eloquent and touching little speech, the jewel of the late Past Grand Commander of New Hampshire, John Duncan Patterson, at one time the

Representative of Connecticut near the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire, from which we excerpt the following :

Sir Knight Patterson was sensible to the distinction that this Grand Commandery conferred upon him, and he wished in some way to make known to you his grateful acknowledgment and high appreciation of the honor.

His death took place June 12, 1897. During his last illness he made known to me his wish in this respect, and requested me to present this jewel as a mark of his esteem and regard. It is inexpensive and of little intrinsic value. It is the same as worn in New Hampshire, having been adopted there several years ago, and has since been presented by the Grand Commandery to our Past Grand Commanders.

He was peculiarly mindful of the courtesies and amenities of knightly intercourse, and ardently devoted to knightly friendships and associations. And he deemed it an honor to be the Representative in any manner of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple in the noble State of Connecticut. His last words to me in this respect were: "I send them the message of the Cross, at the foot of which we as Templars are taught to kneel."

I ask you to accept this jewel and place it among your archives, that it may remind you of him who entertained a lively interest in your behalf and knightly respect for your Grand Body.

To this Past Grand Commander Root responded, in part, as follows:

*R.: E.: Sir Knight Bronson and Sir Knight Fellows :*

It is with pleasure that I accept, in behalf of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, from your hands, the jewel of Sir John Duncan Patterson, who for several years was the representative of this Grand Body near the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire.

It is a beautiful thought that this honored Sir Knight should, in his declining years, have remembered the Grand Body that he once represented. We accept this jewel and place it in our archives in remembrance of an illustrious Sir Knight, whose devotion to the Order which we represent is worthy of emulation.

You have been pleased to delineate in an impressive manner the inner life of this eminent Frater, conveying to us lessons of his example in Christianity and devotion to the principles of knighthood. The message which he sent to us through you is most touching, and finds a warm response in our hearts.

This incident unites us more strongly in that fraternal bond of knighthood, and, although separated by distance, we belong to the same Order, having the same ambition in the uplifting of humanity and the ennobling of character.

Our whilom friend and brother, Hugh Sterling, is the architect of the Correspondence report, which covers eighty-six pages, and digests the proceedings of forty-two Templar legislatures, ours for 1897 among the number.

Under California, and reviewing the Grand Commander's address in reference to the conflict between the law of California and that of the Grand Encampment touching the status of non-affiliates in Lodge and Chapter, he remarks :

This Grand Commander swore that he would obey the laws of the Grand Encampment, and yet if he had received the above information sooner he would have instructed the Commanderies to suspend all mem-



bers returned as not in good standing in Lodge and Chapter. We have always been taught that Masons should obey the law.

We have always believed that our Blue Lodge obligations take precedence in binding force over all subsequent engagements we may have entered into, hence our promise to obey the rules, regulations, laws and edicts of the Grand Lodge are paramount, and I am under no obligation to disobey those rules, etc., at the behest of the Grand Encampment, or any other authority, excepting only that of God.

Bro. Sterling's attention to Mississippi is fraternal. He copies sparingly from Grand Commander Buchanan's address.

Sir William E. Withey is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### CANADA—1898.

The fifteenth Annual was held in the city of Hamilton, Province of Ontario, September 6. There were in attendance M. E. Sir Knight Daniel F. McWatt, Supreme Grand Master; R. E. Sir I. B. Tresedder, Grand Registrar; two Past Supreme Grand Masters, a large list of other Grand Officers and the representatives of thirty-seven Sub-Preceptories.

Welcoming addresses from "His Worship," the Mayor of Hamilton, and the local Preceptory were among the opening incidents of the Conclave.

The address of the Grand Master, while not as long as these papers usually are in that Jurisdiction, is none the less elegant and eloquent in thought and diction. Being simply an epitome of his administration, it is mostly confined to local matters.

Much space in the pamphlet is occupied by reports of the different Grand Officers as inspecting officers, from all of which we learn that the Order is in excellent shape in that bailiwick.

The finances are also in a healthy condition. Total membership, 1,832—a gain of seventy-six.

Seventy pages of the pamphlet is occupied by an excellent report on Fraternal Correspondence, by Past Grand Master Will H. Whyte, in which most of the Templar "Grands" are carefully, courteously and interestingly considered, Mississippi, we regret to say, not among the number. His "opening chorus" is very instructive, and would be glad to copy it all, but want of space forbids, and we content ourselves with this:

The leading questions in various proceedings, other than those above mentioned, have been the Mississippi and the Tennessee resolutions. The former tries to take away some of the authority of the Grand Encampment, which they think encroaches on "State rights" and makes it like the General Grand Chapter—a grand body with little power or utility. We have too much confidence in the common sense of our American fraters to imagine this will ever be done. The Tennessee resolutions are, briefly, that they want the Grand Encampment to take measures to stop all societies or others from using the "Maltese Cross." We are afraid this comes a little too late in the day. By the expression "Maltese Cross" we suppose is meant the cross adopted by the American

Templars, four triangles meeting in a center, and erroneously so called by many. The Cross of Malta is a white cross formed from having the four arms joined in a small center and the extremities extended, and notched or indented to resemble fish tails, the fish being a Christian symbol, emblematical of Christ.

Our brother's judgment of what constitutes proof of the possession of "common sense" is a little shaky. A very superior article of common sense inspired the Mississippi resolutions, and the lack of that attribute in the members of the Grand Encampment defeated those resolutions in the Central Body. Had it passed them it would have done the only really sensible and useful act in its history.

Under Maine we find:

Very true. We do not look upon a rejection as a blot on a man's character. Men with excellent characters for honesty, sobriety and morality, but ambitious and incompetent, and with such wretched dispositions that the peace and quietness of the institution would soon be marred and upset by their admission, very often knock at our doors. When such men seek admission, the black ball merely says in their case: "Your character may be excellent, but your company and disposition we do not want." We are particular whom we invite to our homes and family circle; we fight shy of the rude and the uncouth and the quarrelsome. Why should we be less careful of our company in our Lodges?

All of which is logical, but does not prevent the rejected companion from getting mad as a hornet.

M. E. Sir Knight Daniel F. McWatt, re-elected Grand Master; R. A. A. A. Campbell, Grand Registrar.

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#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—1898.

A special Conclave was held January 7th. There was a full attendance, but there is no minute of any special reason for a special Conclave at this special period in the history of the world. We are inclined to believe that the matter of rent for quarters for the Grand Body was a large factor of influence in its coming together on this special occasion. It seems they have a Masonic Temple in Washington, and that the Association controlling it sent in its little bill for an even hundred dollars for a year's rental, and as this sum seemed rather steep when examined by the unaided eye of right, economy, justice and the eternal fitness of things, our Capitol brethren considered themselves entitled to a vigorous kick. After stating their reasons through a committee, for the faith that was in them; they concluded to pay what they considered a fair amount and move out. Another instance of the "biter bit." They then amended the constitution so they could, without violating their fundamental law, meet elsewhere, and closed.

The 3rd Annual was held in the city of Washington, May 19th. Present: R. E. Rezin W. Darby, Grand Commander; Sir A. B. Bennett, Grand Recorder; 2 Past Grand Commanders, 19 Grand Representatives, not including ours, if we have one, and representatives of all Sub-Commandaries.

Grand Commander's address covers less than four pages, half of which is taken up with the names of deceased brethren in his own and sister jurisdictions. Nos. 1 and 2 of his own Command lost 13 members each during the year, while Nos. 3 and 4 lost 9 between them. We find nothing further in the address of interest to you.

The proceedings were routine and of local interest only. Finance in a healthy state. Treasury balance, \$1,322.82. Total membership 1,467—a loss of 67.

Sir Geo. H. Walker presented his "first born" progeny as Correspondent, in which he briefly digests the minutes of 38 Templar Grands in 35 pages of space. He evidently thinks that while these reports are quite valuable, as he states in his "opening chorus," that some, most all of them, in fact, are unworthy of his notice, as he does not so much as refer to them except in the case of Ohio, New York, Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas and New Jersey. This leaves 31 of us in the lurch and is a reflection on our ability, hard to bear!

R. E. Eldred G. Davis, is Grand Commander; Sir Arvine W. Johnston, Grand Recorder, and Geo. H. Walker is Correspondent.

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#### GEORGIA—1898.

The thirty-seventh Annual was held in the city of Macon, May 11th and 12th. There were present R. E. Sir Charles M. Wiley, Grand Commander; R. E. William S. Rockwell, P. G. C., Grand Recorder; five Past Grand Commanders, sixteen Past Commanders, sixteen Grand Representatives, and delegates from ten Subordinate Commanderies. The opening was preceded by an address of welcome by our good friend, Sir Roland B. Hall. A fitting and feeling response was made by E. Sir J. R. Saussy on behalf of the visitors.

The Grand Commander's address is a superior paper. We clip the following eloquent reference to our late unpleasantness with Spain:

Another circumstance must claim our attention, and wring from us the deep regret of reverent hearts. The storm cloud of war is stretched upon our skies, and already the deep-toned thunder of its ominous voice has rolled over our heads, and the fitful flashes of its death-dealing lightning have blinded the eyes of our shuddering souls. We have devoutly hoped that we should long be spared a repetition of the horrors of thirty years ago. But we are already in the midst of conflicts; the deadly engagements have begun. The places of those slain must be filled by others. Some of us, or those dear to us, must go. The pall of apprehension is already on the hearts of our wives and sisters. May the God of all the living save them from more sorrowful experiences. May our conflict be short, quick and decisive, and may we soon see the black cloud swept far away upon the distant horizon, while Peace, sweet angel of Heaven, comes once again to preside over the lives and destinies of our people, leaving our flag waving victoriously, and the proud Eagle of America pluming himself for higher flights.

A portion, at least, of this earnest prayer reached the ear of the Most High and brought speedy answer. To-day, August 23, four months after

its beginning, the war is over, victory is ours and preparations are making for the return of the citizen soldiery to their homes. Looking back over the stirring and unparalleled events of the war, we are constrained to repeat the exclamation of the prophet Baalam, when viewing the hosts of Israel, "What hath God wrought!" Every incident of the war, from Manila to Santiago de Cuba, Ponce and San Juan, proclaim, in thunder tones, that God was on our side and went forth with our armies and navy. Glorious as is the record of our arms, it is, nevertheless, pleasant to know that peace prevails once more, and for this we thank the good Lord.

He visited each commandery in his bailiwick, and good resulted, no doubt.

Among his recommendations he suggests that Subordinate Commanderies be instructed not to confer the Orders upon any one who does not supply himself with a full uniform as soon as he is elected a member, etc. We know what our brother meant to say, but his manner of expression sounds a little Irish. An elegant likeness of the R. E. makes a handsome frontispiece to the pamphlet.

The Triennial Committee reported that they had secured two rooms, one 45x20 and the other 20x20, for \$25 a day—*half of which had to be paid in advance!* which we would see him, the proprietor, further in heaven than he is likely to get before I would have paid him a cent in advance. I should have taken the demand as an insult and a reflection on me personally and also the Grand Body I represented, and should have told him to go where no ice is on tap. These Triennials are a regular bonanza to shylock hotel keepers and others having rooms to rent, as well as to the dealers in tanglefoot, and that is about all they amount to.

Resolutions of sympathy were adopted for Bro. S. P. Hamilton, on account of his own illness, and for Bro. George B. Whiteside, on account of the illness of his wife. These things cost but little, and yet they are very pleasant to the parties in interest. Would there were more Christian sympathy and fraternity between us.

Some half a dozen committees reported, but the minutes are silent as to what was done with these reports. We assume, however, that they were adopted. We note, with pleasure, that the Finance Committee recommended that the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be paid a "salary" of \$200 and expenses! Now, what are those expenses? Will our good Bro. Roland rise and explain! We congratulate our brother on this substantial recognition of his merit. He deserves it.

Total membership, 728—a gain of nine. Finances in a healthy state. Order in good shape.

Our good brother, Roland B. Hall, is the author of an excellent report on Correspondence, which considers the transactions of forty-four Templar Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1897 receiving a fair measure of attention.

Under Alabama he notes the action of Grand Commander Douglas in presenting his first born son to the Grand Commandery of Alabama, copying, with approval, the whole proceedings, including the father's presen-

tation speech and that of the Deputy Grand Commander, accepting the tender on behalf of the Grand Commandery. The child's mother is a Roman Catholic, but consented to his being christened in the Episcopal Church and to the action of the father, stated above. Candor compels us to withhold our approval of this sort of thing, but we find some comfort in the fact that some crank did not propose the child's rechristening by the Grand Commandery.

Bro. Hall's review of Mississippi is full and fraternal. He says of Grand Prelate Jones' sermon that it was eloquent and abounded in beautiful sentiment, and quotes liberally therefrom. He also quotes Bro. Speed's resolutions anent the Grand Encampment; also the minute in regard to the election of Miss Laura Patrick as Sponsor, etc., which he characterizes as a "new departure." He has some flattering words for this committee, which are much appreciated.

R. E. Almeron W. Walton is Grand Commander; Samuel P. Hamilton is Grand Recorder, and Bro. Roland B. Hall is continued as Correspondent.

#### ILLINOIS—1898.

A ponderous tome of more than 300 pages contains the proceedings, etc., of the Forty-second Annual Conclave of this now imperial Jurisdiction, at which there were present R. E. Sir James P. Sherwin, Grand Commander; Sir Gil. W. Barnard, Grand Recorder, and all the balance of the staff save the Deputy Grand Commander, E. Sir William Jenkins, who had been called from the trials and sufferings of earth to a heavenly rest. There were also eighteen Past Grand Commanders, twenty-seven Grand Representatives, twenty-seven Past Commanders, and Representatives from sixty-one of the sixty-seven Subordinate Commanderies in attendance.

The Grand Commander's address is a voluminous, but well-written, resume of an apparently successful and creditable administration. Long as it is, however, it is almost entirely confined to local matters. Brief mention is made of the knightly dead, both of his own and sister Jurisdictions. Appropriate tribute, however, is paid to their memory and worth in the able and exhaustive report of the Committee on Necrology. (We note, here, that in that report the death is noted and womanly virtues of the wife of the Junior Grand Warden, E. Sir Fred C. Winslow, are highly and properly eulogized, all of which is right and proper.)

He reports that the "late unpleasantness" between Elwood Commandery, No. 6, of Illinois, and Los Angeles, No. 9, has been satisfactorily settled and the Thomas Hawk buried. 'Tis well! Let us have peace.

Inspection by the Grand Officers of the Subordinate Commanderies was quite general, and the R. E. is of the opinion that good resulted. That depends, in a degree, on whether the Subordinates spent too many

ducats on banquets or not. You may drill your Subordinates till they are perfect in ritual and tactics, but if, in doing this, you wreck the exchequer the concern will die. He is in favor of opening the Commanderies with all the frills and furbelows, which is all right in principle but not always practicable. You can't drill a corporal's guard under tactics designed for handling an army corps.

He seemed to regret the failure of some of his Subordinates to be represented at Pittsburg. Possibly some of them were too poor to buy a hotel, and stayed at home because it was much cheaper.

We have found several words in this address that, in our judgment, would justify the execution of the "intelligent compositor" for perpetrating faulty syntax and shaky orthography.

The proceedings were routine and mostly local in interest. Our venerable and valued friend, Grand Recorder Barnard, is something of a veteran in more ways than one. First, in his attendance on the annual meetings of the Grand Commandery, twenty-eight in number; second, as Grand Recorder, and third, in all and singular that constitutes the earnest, zealous, intelligent and worthy Templar and Mason. We copy:

PERSONAL.

One of the most interesting events in the life of a young man is the time of his arrival at the legal age of manhood. I have arrived at a like period in my time of service as your Recorder. Twenty-one years have passed since I was first elected to the official station that I now fill in this Grand Commandery.

I do not propose to take up your time with reminiscences of the past, or to make comparisons of our conditions now with what it was then. We have grown stronger in numbers and finances. We have been charitable to the needy, have laughed with those who were happy, and mourned with those who were in sorrow. Take it all in all, I think we have grown better as the world has grown happier and better.

Our record is a good one to review, and we have reason to feel proud of it.

This is the twenty-eighth successive Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery that I have been in attendance, and, while others have been longer in their time of attendance, yet none can feel more deeply than I the great change that has occurred during that period.

What I want to do is to express to you all, both the old and the new members, my most sincere, grateful, and earnest, heartfelt thanks for the universal kindness that you have shown to me and your charitable indulgence of my failings. It is a sweet memory, which no one but myself can have a true appreciation or conception of.

There is another memory in this connection which is very near and dear to me, that of those who were with me in young manhood at the beginning and grew old and gray with me in the long years of service, and now

" They do but slumber in the dust,  
While angels guard their sacred trust,  
Till all the bodies of the just  
In glory rise."

Courteously submitted,

GIL. W. BARNARD, Grand Recorder.

So far as regular attendance goes, both this writer and Grand Secretary Power, I think, can beat his exceptionally good record. Our first attendance at Grand Lodge of Masons in Mississippi was at its semi-centennial session at Natchez in 1868, and we have been at each Annual Communication since that date—that is, thirty-one consecutive times. Who can beat it?

We hope our brother Gil. will attend twenty-eight more before the good Lord says: "It is enough! Come up higher!"

Total membership, 9,491—a loss of fifteen!

Sir Knight and General John Corson Smith presents his tenth report on Correspondence, in which can be found any quantity of good things, as is usual with his writings. Although something of a tramp, he keeps his eyes open and has a large capacity to describe intelligently and interestingly what his eyes have seen. Sixty-five pages of the report is devoted to what he has seen of men and things in his wanderings across the big pond, more especially in Scotland. We copy his opening:

#### OUR WANDERING STEPS.

"My country, Sir, is not a single spot;  
No; 'tis the social circle of my friends,  
Of such a mould, or fixed to such a clime;  
The lov'd community in which I'm link'd,  
And in whose welfare all my wishes center."

"We wonder towards what quarter his wandering steps incline next," wrote Sir Knight John C. Chase, of North Carolina, in closing his review of the Illinois correspondence for 1897, not knowing that as he wrote our "wandering steps" had again led us to the land of our forefathers, the land of the ever "Bonnie Scotland." At that writing we were in Edinboro,

"Scotia's darling seat,"

with our invalid daughter, who for months had been a great sufferer. A long sea voyage, change of air, climate and environment had been urged by the physicians, and our "wandering steps" were turned to those lands where it would seem that our dear girl could receive the greatest benefit. The season was late or we would have gone into Egypt, and but for the plague have journeyed as far as India.

Having received several official and urgent invitations to meet with the great priories and chapter general governing the Knights Templar of Great Britain and Ireland, and other governing bodies of the higher degrees of Freemasonry which were to meet in Edinburgh, Scotland, we turned our steps in that direction and made that our first objective point.

Before leaving home we received notice of the meetings to be held in Edinburgh by the bodies before named, the work contemplated, and noted that we were expected to be present.

These incidents of travel, with pictures of all sorts, seem to be thrown in as a sort of lagniappe and dessert to what is an admirable literary feast by itself. However, we are obliged to our brother none the less.

Bro. Smith digests most of the transactions of the Templar legislatures in his accustomed courteous and interesting style. In the place dedicated to Mississippi we find this:

## MISSISSIPPI—1898.

The many public duties of Grand Recorder Sir Knight John L. Power, and the prevalence of that Southern scourge, the yellow fever, have no doubt prevented the issue of the Proceedings of this Grand Jurisdiction, which we miss very much. To the honor of this brave frater, we want to put it here on record that, as Secretary of State, he is the only officer of the State government, with perhaps one exception, who has remained at his post in the State Capital and there given his services to ameliorate the condition of the afflicted. All honor to Sir Knight Colonel John L. Power.

From his review of the Grand Encampment we copy:

We cannot give the legislation of Grand Encampment, for it was pre-eminently *the* working session far and beyond all others. The Constitution, Statutes and Code were all read, amended and adopted, and there were many changes in each, all tending to a closer conformity with Ancient Craft law and a nearer union of interests.

That the Orders of Knighthood shall not be conferred upon any one, unless he be affiliated in Lodge and Chapter, was a step in the right direction of continuous membership, which led to the adoption of a law to that effect. Hereafter a Sir Knight who dimits from Lodge or Chapter, and voluntarily does not affiliate with the same in six months, loses his membership in the Commandery.

Perpetual jurisdiction also met its death at this Triennial Conclave, and a *three years'* probation now permits the rejected candidate to apply to the Commandery having jurisdiction.

The principles for which we have so earnestly contended, and which are so fully set forth in the opening of our Correspondence of 1897, are thus recognized and the Orders of Knighthood brought into closer communion with Ancient Craft and Royal Arch Masonry, and we are happy.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence approved the Grand Master's decisions except No. VI., which made a by-law a contract between the Commandery and its members. Such a conclusion would prevent the amendment of any by-law if there were found one member to object.

No. VIII. was correct except the advice how to avoid a positive law, which advice was stricken out.

A new committee was created, a Committee on Foreign Relations, and John Corson Smith was made the chairman.

The committees made full reports of all business before them, and the decks were cleared as they never were before; hence we say that the twenty-seventh annual session was strictly a business meeting.

The law was also amended to permit a dimitted Templar to petition for affiliation any Commandery, wherever stationed.

The per capita tax paid to Grand Encampment was reduced from five to three cents, as that is believed to be sufficient to meet all expenses, and thus avoid the accumulation of a permanent fund, which would be sure to beget extravagance or be voted to help erect a temple.

The Templars of Illinois were in evidence at the Triennial, and, although the latter part of the parade was broken by a downpour of rain, the Sir Knights remained in line and passed the reviewing stand amid much applause, particularly St. Bernard Commander.

The Twenty-eighth Triennial will be held in the city of Louisville, Kentucky, the last Tuesday in August, 1901.

We are truly glad to know that the Central Body has done something practical, if not sensible.



Sir Knight George W. Curtiss is R. E. Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporter as before.

#### INDIANA—1898.

The Forty-fourth Annual was held in the city of Logansport, April 20th. R. E. John E. Redmond, Grand Commander; William H. Smythe, Grand Recorder. All the Grand Officers were present, together with thirteen Past Grand Commanders, one Past Deputy Grand Commander, a long list of Past Commanders, twenty-six Grand Representatives and the Representatives from thirty-nine Subordinate Commanderies.

Under the head of "Proemial," we find a welcoming address by the Mayor and a response by Past Grand Commander Ruckle, both being good speeches. After the opening of the Grand Body some more welcoming speeches and responses were indulged in, all of which proves that sundry and divers people around Logansport were pregnant with speeches, and they had to be and were delivered.

The Grand Commander's address is constructed in accordance with the plan adopted by us in our address to the Grand Lodge in '88. It covers twenty-three pages, and is made up principally of his correspondence and orders, which gives it length and saves the trouble of condensation. He opens as follows:

Another year has been added to the cycle of time, and the Chivalric Orders of Christian Knighthood stand as of old—the defenders of the innocent and the distributor of alms to the destitute, and ever ready to go forth to battle for the protection of the Christian religion. Such are the duties of all true and courteous Knights. And none are more faithful to their vows than the fraters of our own beloved State.

And now, my eminent fraters, it is indeed a happy era in my existence to have the pleasure and the power, on behalf of the Masonic Fraternity of this beautiful city, to bid you a cordial welcome to our city, our temple, our hearts and our homes. Our citizens welcome you as men of pure and exalted motives. We welcome you to our asylum, as it will redound to our credit in the future. We welcome you to our hearts, as we have met each other face to face in the hour of sorrow and of joy. We welcome you to our homes, as our families have realized the many kind and charitable acts you have performed, and in such a quiet and humane manner, as if the right hand knoweth not what the left hand doeth.

And now again I exclaim, welcome, thrice welcome, my beloved fraters of Indiana, to this, the Forty-fourth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Indiana.

This makes three welcoming speeches, and we trust the visiting brethren felt at home and comfortable, and did not stay long enough to wear their welcome out. Probably there will be an epidemic of this sort of speeches at Pittsburg, and when we reflect, as our Alabama brethren doubtless will, that two rooms, one 45x20 and the other 20x20, cost \$25 a day, 50 per cent. of which must be paid six months in advance, we can readily understand that the *welcome*, while it comes rather high, is real and sincere and has a solid basis! If I pay my neighbor a visit and he makes me a set speech of *welcome*, and then charges me two prices for my

board and lodging while enjoying his *hospitality*, I get tired and wish he had kept still about the "welcome" business.

Bro. Redmond pays proper tribute to the dead of the Order—and the list is a long one. Happily Mississippi, by God's goodness, is not included.

He constituted three new commanderies. He issued a large lot of dispensations, but all for legitimate purposes.

Among his decisions was one that a citizen of Illinois could dimit from a Commandery in that State and affiliate with one in Indiana. On notifying the Grand Commander of Illinois of this ruling that official denied its correctness, and the matter went to Grand Master Thomas, who decided against Bro. Redmond, and he revoked his ruling but still insists that he is right. We are inclined to think that it is not so much a question of my right to place my membership where I please, as it is as to whether the Statutes of a Grand Commandery require petitioners for membership in its Subordinate Commanderies to be residents of the State and within the jurisdiction of the Commandery they wish to join. If there is no such requirement, it strikes us that I can join any commandery in any State I may elected. Nor has the Commandery from which I dimit, or its Grand Commandery, any just right to interfere. Referring to the above matter, he says:

Now, I passed through this controversy with pleasant correspondence with all parties concerned, but would like for the Representatives from Indiana to Pittsburg at the Triennial to question the right of a Grand Master to interpret the Statutes other than what they read, or if it is his prerogative to enact additional legislation by a simple decision upon a question propounded.

The representatives of Indiana will play smash in getting that Body to sit down on the Grand Master! This phenomenon will not occur until there are three Thursdays in a week. Scarcely!

He reported that the Triennial Committee had secured the Common Pleas Court room, and four small rooms attached, for headquarters for the Grand Commandery of Indiana. "What fools we mortals be."

The proceedings are routine and mostly local. Total receipts, \$3,353.50; disbursements, \$3,281.50; balance on hand, \$5,464.08. Total accessions, 233; total losses, 190. Total membership, 3,569—a gain of 43. Peace and harmony prevail.

Past Grand Commander N. R. Ruckle presented the report on Correspondence, which is a good one. His "opening chorus" is first-class, but is too long to copy entire, and as it treats entirely of the hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows, and the duties, and so forth, of Correspondents, it cannot be divided. Bro. Ruckle's paper covers 137 pages of the pamphlet, and digests the transactions of forty-six Templar governing bodies in his usual style, Mississippi for 1897 getting two pages of pleasant and fraternal notice. Under Arkansas, and referring to resolutions adopted by that Grand Body identical with those of our Bro. Speed in regard to Grand Encampment, he says:

These resolutions plausibly enumerate the ritual, uniform, nomencla-

ture and rank of officers, as appertaining exclusively to the general welfare of the Order, with the intimation that every matter and thing else pertaining to the institution is of local concern only.

The Statutes which set out how membership is to be acquired and how maintained, and define the relations of a Templar to his Commandery and to other Commanderies, are the matters which concern more immediately the general welfare of the Order.

No Companion applies for the Orders of Knighthood with the understanding that his privileges are to be limited to the State of Mississippi, or even to the States of California or Ohio. He is taught that Templar rights are the same in every Jurisdiction under the Grand Encampment; that his franchises and privileges can be abridged only by the operation of regulations which apply equally in every Obedience, and that while he remains a Knight Templar in good standing his statutory rights are everywhere the same.

While there may be much just criticism of the Grand Encampment, we believe that the wonderful growth of Templary is due to it, and has not come in despite of it.

All of which sounds very nice and logical, but us fellows who don't expect to go to the Grand Encampment when we die are unable to see things as Bro. Ruckle *et al.* seem to do. Referring to the last sentence of the above excerpt, we beg to suggest that the wonderful growth of Templary will not be retarded by curtailing the right of this bait to catch gudgeons, to interfere with and take away the rights properly belonging to Grand Commanderies and their Subordinates.

There are lots of good things in this report that we should like to copy, but we have already given Indiana a liberal allowance of space.

R. E. John H. Nicholson is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### INDIAN TERRITORY—1897.

The Third Annual was held in the city of Purcell, November 2d, 1897, R. E. Sir James Elmer Humphrey, Grand Commander, presiding; E. Sir Eugene Hamilton as Grand Recorder. All the Grand Officers below Senior Grand Warden were absent. Four Subordinate Commanderies were represented.

The address covers a little more than two pages, and contains nothing of general interest. His dispensations were few and for proper purposes. We excerpt this decision:

Companion W. H. Brenton, who was formerly of Chickasha, but now a resident of Colorado, signed petition for the Orders before leaving; whose material is he?

Answer—He is not your material, because, first, your Commandery hath not been constituted; and, second, if it was it would not take effect, except that the petition had been received by the Commandery at a regular Convocation, before he left the Jurisdiction.

That word *hath* has an uncanny look and an unfamiliar sound. We presume the ruling is all O. K. A portrait of the R. E. makes an admirable frontispiece for the pamphlet.

Proceedings local. No report from either Grand Treasurer or Grand

Recorder, except that a communication from the former advised that no funds had passed through his hands. Total membership, 145—a gain of twelve. No report on Correspondence.

R. E. Sir Edmond H. Doyle is Grand Commander; E. Sir Joseph S. Murrow is Grand Recorder, and Past Grand Commander R. W. Hill is Correspondent.

#### INDIAN TERRITORY—1898.

The Fourth Annual was held in South McAlester, September 14th. Present, R. E. Edmond H. Doyle, Grand Commander; E. Sir J. S. Murrow, Grand Recorder; all the balance of the staff, and delegates from all the five Subordinates.

The address covers but five pages, and is devoid of general interest. He reports peace and a fair measure of prosperity as prevailing. He decided that a non-affiliate, who had been such for a year, was, per consequence, not in good standing in the Commandery, and this decision was sustained by the Law Committee and the Grand Body. The law of the Grand Lodge in the Territory, on this subject, is similar to ours, and its existence was the basis for the decision.

The proceedings were routine and local. An excellent picture of the retiring Grand Commander makes an admirable frontispiece for the pamphlet. Total membership, 102—a gain of thirty-two.

The Correspondence report covers thirty-seven pages, reviews most of the Templar pamphlets very briefly, and is the maiden effort of Past Grand Commander R. W. Hill, now a resident of Canandaigua, N. Y. He starts out with the promise to make no comments, and keeps it pretty well. We suggest that a report made up of clippings alone is seldom worth consideration from a reviewer, however interesting it might be to the general reader. We copy his conclusion, which is good:

The long column has passed in review at last, and the work is done. Almost all the proceedings have been of 1897, a year of peace. No note of anticipation of war; no thought that ere another Conclave the call to arms would ring over our country, and that a "battle summer" would be added to those heretofore inscribed on the scroll of history. Yet so it has happened. The war with Spain has been begun and ended, and at this writing the Peace Commissioners are in Paris settling the final terms. The roll of national heroes has been added to during the conflict; from the calm Sabbath morning when, in Manila Bay, Dewey won imperishable fame, till the end of the war, the gallantry of our American soldiers and sailors has demonstrated their fitness for all occasions. What the future may have in store for the American people we cannot say, but the heritage of well-won glory belong to it for what it has accomplished this summer. The war has been a blessing to us as well as others. Our nation is one in spirit as well as name; there is neither North nor South, East or West. The year has brought the Grants and the Lees to the same service, and the veterans of the South and the veterans of the North have marched to meet the common foe. Bitterness and rancor have been forever buried, and under the impelling and irresistible force of events our country has entered upon its new career with a people united, patriotic and eager for national honor.

And in the hour of need Templary did not fail to respond to our country's call. The call was recognized as the call of oppressed humanity—as the call of the widow and the orphan in distress—and when it was heard the valiant and the knightly were quick to reply. The Grand Encampment had its representatives, and in the quota of its State Templary had its full share, while behind those who went to the field the strength and sympathy of those who remained at home went to the encouragement of the true Templar, the President, as he guided “the currents of destiny” to the final victory. May peace bring to us still greater honor and more glorious triumphs.

R. E. Patrick James Byrne is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder same as before.

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IOWA—1898.

The Thirty-fifth Annual was held at Templar Park, Spirit Lake, July 12th. There were present R. E. Sir Francis H. Loring, Grand Commander ; E. Sir Alf. Wingate, Grand Recorder ; all the other Grand Officers, six Past Grand Commanders, sixteen Grand Representatives and Representatives from thirty-three Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is a full *resume* of his administration. We copy his opening :

I had hoped that by this date I could greet you with the news of hostilities ended ; that the bright light of peace and friendship might have encircled our land, and the tocsin of cruel war have been hushed, before the return of our festal week. But not so. The nation is still marshaling her hosts in battle. The boom of cannon, the shriek of the shell and the thud of the bullet is the requiem being sung, and the best blood of our nation goes out to defend the flag. The groans of the wounded and the moans of the dying are borne aloft on the breeze from the southern seas, and wafted to the homes of our people, where the vacant chair sits by the fireside, never again to be filled ; where the weeping mother waits in her sorrow for the soldier boy who shall never more return to receive her loving embrace or kiss of affection.

I have fondly expected to accept our assembling here as a happy omen, but the realization of that hope is still unfulfilled. Yet it is proper that our business be done, and that we should take up the duties which we are now called on to perform with the same degree of earnestness that we would under more peaceful and happier conditions. And if there is one time more than another when we should show our faith in the principles of our Order, or practice more perfectly its precepts, it is when war, with its attendant horrors, is devastating the land, and bringing grief and sorrow to the hearts of our people.

Sir Knights, if there is a time when you should wield your swords in defense of innocent maidens, it is when the passions of men are excited to the pitch of uncontrollable frenzy by the horrors of war. If there is a time when destitute widows are in need of protection, it is when those from whom they should expect it are laid low in death on the field of battle, or detained in the field or hospital with the many discomforts of army life. If there is a time when helpless orphans cry out for aid, it is when the father's guiding and protecting hand is snatched away by the destroying angel of carnage.

Our Order was born of suffering, developed amid perils by land and sea, and is to-day a synonym for friendship, relief and benevolence. It

calls for the highest exemplification of faith in times of tranquility, and demands the most unselfish devotion to the good of mankind during the destitution, suffering and death caused by cruel war.

While we cannot come to our Templar home with the same pleasure as in former years, yet it is a joy to know that each returning season brings an increasing interest in the objects for which we come.

While the nations have been disturbed and our own Columbia has unfurled the crimson flag of war in the cause of humanity, and to punish treachery, it is my pleasure to record that peace and harmony have directed the conduct of all the Sir Knights of this Jurisdiction one toward another during the Templar year just closing.

There has arisen some contention among fraters as to rights and methods, but it has been characterized by the "noble contention, or rather emulation, as to who best can work and best agree."

There has been no decline in devotion to or active work for the best interests of our Order. There has been an increase in our numbers, and we trust that with that increase there has been a corresponding spreading of the knowledge of the tenets of the Order, as well as a greater application of the principles to the experience of human life.

Appropriate attention is paid the memory and merit of the Templar dead, both humble and exalted. He granted but five dispensations, and these for proper purposes, and refused two to appear in uniform on Memorial Day. He also refused to allow his Subordinate Commanderies to attend "charity balls" in uniform. He may be right in this, but we would have said, "Yes! Go in and do all the good you can."

We clip the following because out of the usual:

MRS. AMANDA E. PARISH.

On August 26th, 1897, I received a communication from Grand Recorder Wingate informing me of the death of Mrs. Amanda E. Parish, wife of our lamented Past Grand Recorder, Sir Knight John C. Parish.

She had been an invalid for more than two years, and had submitted to several surgical operations, from which she had been a great sufferer. She died at a hospital in the city of Lansing, Michigan, and her remains were brought to Des Moines by her friends and buried by the side of her husband.

Those who knew Mrs. Parish will remember her as a lady of genial manners and kind disposition, who, by her constant and patient attention to her husband throughout his long and tedious illness, proved herself a devoted wife of the tenderest affection.

As the shadows gathered around her, and she felt that her call to the higher life was drawing near, she was moved with a desire to leave to the fraters of Iowa some valuable testimonial of her appreciation of the kindness and fraternal friendship which had followed our valiant Sir Knight in his illness, and aided in smoothing her pathway in her declining years.

On the 8th of October, 1897, I received from Sir Knight D. F. Callender a copy of the will of the late Mrs. Amanda E. Parish, in which is this clause:

"*Fifth.* I direct my executor to pay over to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Iowa the sum of three thousand (\$3,000) dollars, to be kept and denominated 'the Parish fund'; the same to be under the care of three trustees, and their successors in office annually elected by said Grand Commandery; the said amount to be kept invested in some safe securities, at interest, the interest to be payable as often as once in

each year, and said interest to be expended by said trustees as they may think best for purposes of charity."

"Cast your bread on the waters, and ye shall find it after many days."

The address, as a whole, is an exceptionally good one.

The proceedings were routine and of local interest. The Order is in a healthy state. The Grand Body financially strong.

Total membership, 4,470—a gain of 36; 295 were knighted during the year; 15 were reinstated. Total gain, 310. One hundred and two dimitted, 60 died, 109 were suspended and 3 expelled, making a total loss of 274, leaving net gain as above.

Our brethren spend nearly a week at their beautiful park at each recurring session of Grand Commandery. Their wives and families, sweethearts and friends are with them, and add to and share in the delights of the occasion. Thus there is time for the unhurried dispatch of business, before and after which there is no lack of rational amusement. I wish we were as nicely fixed.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Our good brother, Alphabet Coxe, is the author of this report, which covers seventy-two pages, and reviews the minutes of forty-two Templar legislatures in his usual kind and courteous style. Unfortunately for all hands, our pamphlet was *non est*, and he remarks that the fraters of Mississippi "must be very patient and charitable men, or there would be a change in the Grand Recordship ere many years went by."

We beg to assure Bro. Coxe that our Brother Power had too much to attend to in attending to his other duties to be as prompt as we would like in getting our pamphlet out.

There is a multitude of good things in this report that we would like to appropriate, but the temptation must be resisted.

R. E. George Woltz Bever is Grand Commander; Grand Reorder and Correspondent continued.

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#### KANSAS—1898.

The Twenty-ninth Annual was held in the city of Topeka, May 10th. There were in attendance R. E. Sir Will C. Chaffee, Grand Commander, and his entire staff, including Sir A. M. Callaham, Grand Recorder; eleven Past Grand Commanders, sixty-nine Past Commanders, nineteen Grand Representatives, and delegates from forty Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is an elegant paper, quite lengthy but full of interest, especially to his own command, from start to finish. We excerpt from his opening:

While we know the occasion may not require it, yet we are satisfied that every strong arm within this jurisdiction, and every glittering sword, will, with one accord, spring from its scabbard, not alone to defend the honor of this glorious republic, but to carry the cause of honorable manhood into foreign and adjacent lands, where the hungry shall be fed, the

naked clothed, the wounds of the afflicted bound up, and the radiant glories of the Cross proclaimed to all mankind.

National pride is thrilled with the glories of that magnificent achievement, which has electrified the world within the past week, and proclaimed to all nations, in the language of a foreign crowned autocrat, that not alone smartness nor commercialism is the characteristic of the American Republic, but a bravery and a valor which has achieved results the like of which has not been recorded upon the pages of history for centuries past.

The Great Captain of our Salvation leads an army, mustered for the pursuits of honorable peace, and as such, in the undying law of love, we bear his banner, but in support of his glorious sacrifice upon Calvary, we are an unwavering phalanx united against the attacks of cruelty and inhumanity.

We raise no word of criticism against a neighboring nation of the world, but we stand as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar against the invasion of a Western Hemisphere by a government of intolerance, oppression and superstition, and are ready to a man to bare our breasts in the defense of those glorious tenets of our Order.

There is but one law which can live upon the Western Hemisphere, matter not what may be the dictates of titled heads, and that is the broad law of liberty and individual rights laid down by the Great Captain of our Host nineteen hundred years ago upon the sacred grounds of Calvary.

What's the matter with Schley and Santiago de Cuba? But the war is over, and it is to be hoped its winnings may be retained, that "Old Glory" will not be hauled down on any part of the earth's surface where it has been raised by American valor and the blood of our soldiers has dampened the ground.

To show that the R. E. is a stickler for the alleged proprieties, and intensely "loil" to the Grand Encampment, we copy these:

A commandery within this jurisdiction desired to confer the Orders of Knighthood upon a petitioner within the jurisdiction of Oklahoma. Information as to procedure having been asked for, I advised said Commandery that, under the law, it became necessary for the request to pass through channels—that is to say, that the request for waiver of jurisdiction must reach the Oklahoma Commandery through the offices of the Grand Commanders of this jurisdiction and Oklahoma. In the meantime the Commandery had taken the subject up direct with the Commandery in Oklahoma, and received therefrom what purported to be a waiver of jurisdiction. This matter coming to my knowledge indirectly, I immediately notified the Eminent Commander of the Commandery within its jurisdiction to suspend further proceedings in relation to said petitioner until the proper courtesy could be extended to the Grand Commander of Oklahoma, and the law be thereby complied with.

Before the fact developed that the two subordinate commanderies had been dealing directly with one another, and following upon the original request from the Commandery within this jurisdiction, I had preferred to the Grand Commander of Oklahoma formal request that waiver of jurisdiction be transmitted through his office from the Subordinate Commandery within his jurisdiction. When it subsequently developed that the two Commanderies had sought to deal with one another, I promptly advised the Grand Commander of Oklahoma to this effect, distinctly stating that I could not hold that the transaction between the two Commanderies was in any wise legal, and urging a compliance with my request previously preferred to him.



I received a very courteous reply, conveying most cordial expressions of good will, but giving the information that the two Commanderies having taken up the matter directly with one another, he had no authority or inclination to act further in the matter.

I took the liberty of again calling his attention to the law of the Grand Encampment and reviewing the entire case, with a renewal of my previous request. To this latter communication I have received no reply. The matter here rests, and the local Commandery has been ordered to take no steps in the matter.

To complete the history of this case, it might be well to add that what purported to be a waiver of jurisdiction contained a condition as to the division of fees, which I was compelled to rule nullified the waiver.

"Much ado about nothing." Our brother of Oklahoma seems to have the call in the matter of horse sense, while our R. E. Kansas friend is ahead, apparently, in the matter of courtesy.

He thinks it is too late to arrange for headquarters at Pittsburg, and suggests that that feature of the "blow-out" be dispensed with by Kansas. (We note that a committee to secure quarters for the Kansas coffee-house at Pittsburg was raised.)

His dispensations were all for proper objects. His decisions were quite numerous, but sound.

We note the reception, with honors, of Grand Recorder R. E. William H. Mayo, of the Grand Encampment.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of \$3,721.47. The Grand Recorder reports an increase of 242 and a decrease of 225, showing a net gain of seventeen.

A full and able report on Necrology, State after State, was made by Bro. S. E. Busser, in which, through God's goodness, Mississippi does not appear. Let us be grateful.

The Mississippi resolutions were submitted and referred to the Law Committee, which sat on them.

A biographical sketch of Grand Commander Chaffee makes a part of the book, and shows him to be what his face indicates—a grand man.

Total membership, 3,247.

The Correspondence report, by Grand Recorder Callahan, is prefaced by this remark: "It is a hot day in June (15th) when we begin this review, with the determination not to weary you with a long report: how well we will succeed remains to be seen." Then follows a report of 203 pages—good, like all Bro. Chaffee's efforts are; but suppose he had set out to write a long report, where would it have ended? The one before us digests the minutes of forty-one Templar governing Bodies in his usual courteous and entertaining style, Mississippi for 1897 getting six full pages, or nearly so, of pleasant attention.

Under Canada we find the following:

Under Mississippi we find answer to our question in relation to "serving knight." He says: "In reply to a query from Frater DeLap, we may say that a 'serving frater' (the nomenclature 'serving knight' is wrong) is one who has had the degrees conferred on him free of charge for the purpose of enabling him to 'serve' as Guard (or Janitor)." We are glad to know that Bro. Robertson says the nomenclature is wrong. The term

"serving knight," in the sense it was used under the head of Dispensations Granted, appears to us an invidious distinction among knights.

"Serving *brother* would be an improvement, we think.

Reviewing Bro. Ruckle, of Indiana, he says :

He roasts Bro. DeLap for making mention of pleasant things said of himself by other Correspondents.

There are but few of us who are so modest as to refrain from telling our home fraters of the complimentary things said of us ; or who is so stoical that he does not care what his fellow Correspondents say of him. We may display a weakness, Bro. DeLap, but a certain amount of the weakness is pardonable.

We are obliged to our brother for his pleasant response to Bro. Ruckle in our behalf. If he (Ruckle) would confine himself to facts, we would not object. However, we had our say and will let the matter rest.

Under Maine these chunks of wisdom :

Bro. Berry is not a warm advocate of Masonic Homes. He advocates the distribution of a smaller amount of money among the kindred of those who are needy, and thus help them along. Our observation of this make-shift method has been such as to give us great prejudice against it. Ninety per cent. are made to feel that they are paupers. There is a visible manifestation of the lack of kindly feeling toward these dependents. Children brought up under this measley method are the drudgery servants of the family.

In all of which we concur.

Bro. Chaffee's attention to our pamphlet for 1897, as stated above, is full, pleasant and kind. He quotes G. C. Buchanan's remarks in regard to our good Bro. Power, and says :

Well, taffy is good, R. E., but most mortals would prefer something more substantial while on earth. We notice in the Grand Treasurer's report that Sir Knight Power is paid the munificent sum of \$100 for salary of Grand Recorder ! A little more than twenty-seven cents a day ! FEWER MONUMENTS AND MORE BREAD, if you please.

We beg to advise our brother that Bro. Power is responsible, himself, for the size of his salary. *He* knows how poor we are.

He calls our beloved Bro. Jones' sermon an excellent one. That is the kind he usually preaches.

Regarding Miss Laura Patrick's election to the office of "sponsor" for a Mississippi Commandery, he says :

We confess ignorance, and inquire the special function of a "sponsor." Our Web-ster fails to give us satisfaction. He says a sponsor is "1. One who binds himself to answer for another, and is responsible for his defaults; a surety. 2. One who, at the baptism of an infant, possesses the Christian faith in its name and guarantees its religious education," etc. With Rev. Sir J. A. B. Jones for Grand Prelate and Bro. DeLap as Correspondent, we would never have suspected that they needed a sponsor. Yet, if they felt these were not sufficient, we congratulate them on their choice of Miss Patrick.

We beg to refer the matter to our Bro. Phineas Savery for reply.

He has lots of pleasant words for our committee, and honors us by clipping liberally from our effort, and if he differs with us he tells it so kindly as to half convert us to his side. We would be glad to draw much more largely from this most admirable report, but the space allotted to Kansas is full. God bless our brother.

Sir George H. Jenkins is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued, of course.

#### KENTUCKY—1898.

The Fifty-first Annual was held in the city of Maysville, May 18th. There were present R. E. Sir Eugene Algernon Robinson, Grand Commander; E. Sir James W. Staton, as Grand Recorder; eleven Past Grand Commanders, twenty-three Grand Representatives, not including ours, and the Representatives of twenty-eight Subordinate Commanderies.

The opening was preceded by devotional services, including a sermon by the Rev. J. S. Sims, pastor of the local M. E. Church, South. We excerpt the opening:

TEXT—St. John xix:5. "And Pilate said unto them, Behold the Man."

Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Jesus Christ was the son of man.

Jewish pride and bigotry, by false accusation, sought his condemnation and death.

Pilate, the Pagan ruler, said, after strict trial and due examination, I find no fault in him. But in no sense did this relieve him from the fury of the maddened rabble who clamored for his death. His conduct in the presence of the court and the cruel mockery of the Jews so impressed Pilate that he said, "Behold the man." Thus Christ, the ideal man, appears at his best estate as he bows himself at the behests of prejudice and passion. So impressed was the mind of the pagan Jurist that he bears unconscious testimony to the unselfish, unsullied integrity of this dauntless hero. Many human instrumentalities foster and propagate the truth of which he was the living embodiment. Among these institutions this Order of Knighthood holds a commendable position. This gallant and magnanimous brotherhood, in common with other institutions, is the custodian of revealed truth. Every Knight is a sworn defender of the Christian religion.

We beg to dissent from the proposition that the text, "Behold the man," was called forth from Pilate by the conduct of our Lord on that occasion. Pilate used the words simply as a notification to the people that He was again before them. But when Pilate informed them that, after a critical examination of the prisoner, he could find no fault in Him, there can be no doubt but that the inspiration of that opinion went beyond the examination by interrogatories and embraced His calm majesty and divine deportment in the presence and under the taunts and persecutions of His implacable, cruel and brutish foes.

To us, however, the ejaculation, "Behold the man," is fraught with much more potential significance than was implied by Pilate on that memorable occasion. To us He stands for the culmination of the "Plan of Salvation," a manifestation of God's love for our race, and the door by which we may enter and share the joys of the heavenly Jerusalem after life's fitful fever is over. How grand the sacrifice! How glorious its fruits to us!

We are, also, constrained to dissent from the assumption that the Order of the Temple, save in its fundamental principles and its basis, cuts

much of a figure as an instrument for the propagation of the truth of which our Lord was the living embodiment!

The teachings of the Master and the ethics of His Gospel have little in common with the scenes incident to the Triennial Sessions of the Supreme Governing Body of the Order, and there is found but little on the tables and side-boards, where wine and strong drink are more plentiful than water, to give an impetus to the power and truth of the Gospel of Christ. "What concord hath Christ with Belial?" That the Order of the Temple could and should be a helpmeet for the advancement of the cause of God in this world of ours, there can be no doubt; that she falls far below her duty and high privilege, is equally true.

"He that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, shall be beaten with many stripes."

We beg also to demur to the proposition that Pilate was a "*jurist*." Pilate was a plain, blunt Roman soldier, and knew about as much about equity, justice and civil law as the devil does about experimental religion and the joys of pardoned sin!

Having entered our demurrers, above, we take great pleasure in testifying to eloquence and ability of our brother as demonstrated by the sermon in question.

The sermon was followed by an eloquent "address of welcome" by another preacher, Rev. Sir F. W. Hanop. This was responded to by Sir John G. Orndorff, who is not a preacher, but, unlike some wearers of "the cloth," is an admirable talker! After all this the Grand Body was opened and the business end of the session was taken up.

The address is a short, well-written business paper, but confined to matters of local interest, to a large extent. He remarks in his opening that "the Order in the State was never in a more prosperous condition," which is gratifying. He pays just tribute to the worth and memory of the knightly dead.

He issued "General Order No. 1," authorizing his Subordinate Commanderies to be religious, according to Grant's Tactics, and in full uniform on "Ascension Day," and invited all strange Knights sojourning in his bailiwick to fall in and be pious along with his retainers.

From the 5th "General Order" we clip the "opening chorus," which is as follows:

*To the Knights Templar of Kentucky:*

All Christian people observe "Good Friday," "Easter Monday" and "Ascension Day," and it is appropriate that Knights Templar should unite in commemorating these days by attending some asylum or church, and thus publicly testifying to their belief in the Christian religion.

Now, if the R. E. O. is correct in his assertion in the above, this scribe, together with several other people—five or nine million, say—of professedly pious people are in a bad row of stumps; in other words, we are not Christians because we do not observe Good Friday, Easter Monday, Wester Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday nor any other conglomeration of holy days; nor do we intend to do so, as all these things are borrowed from heathen mythology and the Church of Rome.

There is not a word or sentence in God's word that justifies, in the least degree, the cannonization of any day in the week or year save the Sabbath, and it is the essence of sublime cheek for the R. E. of Kentucky or his co-religionists to presume to put without the pale of the Christian church those who refuse to adopt the traditions and creeds of men instead of the commands of God!

Paul, it seems, had some trouble with self-righteous cranks of this sort in one of his churches, and he settled the matter by letting them know that the observance or non-observance of these holy days was a matter to be settled by each individual member for himself, using this language: "One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

This was the rule in the days of the Apostles, but down here, in the nineteenth century, and in churches that do not hamper a man in his religion or politics, we behold the spectacle of ostracism from the Christian fold of all those who presume to question the sanctity or importance of these so-called "holy days."

We are not disposed to question the right of our R. E. brother to believe in the sacredness of days, the holiness of shrines, the virtues of dead men's bones, shoes or garments, or the phenomenal attributes of the word of the Cross; but when he has the effrontery to say that I am not a *Christian* because I am of a contrary mind, something is bound to drop with a dull thud!

He made no decisions and issued no improper dispensations. Proceedings local and routine.

We note the presence, as the Representative of Paducah, No. 11, of our very good and valued friend and brother, John W. Landrum, who was with us at Water Valley, accompanied by Sir and Capt. R. B. Davis, the Eminent Commander of No. 11, an old Natchez boy, both of whom made hosts of friends while there, and both occupy a specially warm corner in the writer's affections. We note, also, and with pleasure, that the R. E. had a word of praise and commendation for Grand Secretary Lorenzo Dow Croninger, whose quarter century of faithful and efficient service in that capacity entitles him to the honor and gratitude of his brethren. He also had a pleasant word for our good friend, Chas. Woodruff, for his devotion to his duty and his manner of performing it. It is better, though not customary, to commend people while they are with us and merit it, than to wait till they die and do the mendacity act on their tombstones, as is the usual custom.

Past Grand Commander Chas. R. Woodruff presented his twenty-fifth report on Correspondence, in which he considers the minutes of forty-five Templar Grands, in his usual interesting and courteous style, in a report covering 130 pages. We have said our brother is an excellent hand at this business so many times that it is needless to report it here. Our brother's attention to Mississippi is full, kind and brotherly. God bless him.

We have already filled so much space in our review of Kentucky, that we only have room for his closing :

For the twenty-fifth time we are permitted to enjoy the pleasure of rendering a report on Correspondence to the Grand Commandery of Kentucky.

Our first report is contained in the Proceedings of 1874, when the Grand Commandery had fifteen Subordinates, with 898 Sir Knights, and the receipts for that year amounted to \$753.25. The statistics of 1897 show twenty-five Commanderies, a membership of 2,020 and receipts of \$1,901, which results will be still more favorable for 1898.

It is a matter of congratulation and of pride to have witnessed such substantial growth and material prosperity of our beloved Order in this State during a quarter of a century.

The general table of statistics for 1874 shows that in the United States there were thirty Grand Commanderies, 523 Subordinates, and a total membership of 41,488. There are now forty-five Grand Commanderies, 1,009 Subordinates, and a membership nearly 115,000 Knights Templar, so that the growth of the Order in Kentucky has about kept pace with the general increase.

The Grand Commandery (Encampment) of Kentucky was organized October 5, 1847, by five Commanderies, representing a membership of about 120 Sir Knights, and the (General) Grand Encampment of the United States was formed in 1886 by Representatives from eight Templar Bodies, and the number of Knights Templar in the country at that date has been estimated at not exceeding 500. From such apparently insignificant beginnings what splendid results have been developed !

The progress of the Order has not always been steady and regular ; but after having maintained a solid organization through the trying period of the political persecution of Free Masonry, it soon recuperated with a renewed energy, so that within a quarter of a century its muster-roll has been augmented nearly three-fold. This is surely a most encouraging consummation and an overwhelming evidence of the excellence of the principles inculcated by our Order and of the wisely conceived plans upon which it is founded, presenting at the same time the strongest possible reasons to "remove not the ancient landmarks which our fathers have set."

At the writing of the final words of this report there comes up in pleasant memory the line of Grand Commanders from whose hands we have received assignment to this duty from year to year, each one of whom has rendered us encouragement and assistance in all knightly courtesy. The reading Templars of this Jurisdiction have also shown a gratifying appreciation of our efforts, while our co-laborers in this field in corresponding Grand Jurisdictions have endeared themselves to us by their uniform commendation ; and occasionally, it may be, by their chivalric forbearance. Therefore we close our silver report with a heartfelt "God bless you" for one and all.

R. E. Sir C. C. Vogt is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### LOUISIANA—1898.

The Thirty-fifth Annual was held in New Orleans, February 18th. There were present R. E. Sir Robert Strong, Grand Commander ; Past Grand Commander Richard Lambert, Grand Recorder ; all the Grand

Officers, fourteen Past Grand Commanders, five other Past Grand Officers, four Past Commanders, thirteen Grand Representatives and delegates from four Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a short but well-written *resume* of an uneventful administration. We excerpt:

Through what vicissitudes do we pass in the space of one short year! Since our last Annual Conclave, that so-called dreaded scourge, "yellow fever," has made its appearance in a mild form in four of our beloved Gulf States, namely, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and though many of the Sir Knights became victims in the jurisdictions named, I have not heard of a single loss of life. We, therefore, have every reason to be most devoutly thankful to our Heavenly Father for His goodness, mercy and divine protection to us during the past year.

Appropriate mention is made of the knightly dead, special tribute being paid to the memory of Past Grand Master J. Q. A. Fellows, who passed to his reward November, 1897. Peace to his ashes.

Ascension Day was observed by attending church and listening to an elegant discourse by our old and valued friend, Reverend Sir W. K. Douglas, once Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi. The beloved frater has since passed to his reward.

Grand Genera'issimo Stoddard, of the Grand Encampment, together with other distinguished visitors, were received with appropriate honors.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$328.77, all of which, and more, will be required to run headquarters at Pittsburg and buy a house and lot in which to establish it.

Twenty-two were knighted and one affiliated during the year; gross gain, twenty-three. Six were suspended, nine died and three were "dropped," making the net gain but five. Total membership, 324.

A dispensation was granted for a new Commandery at Alexandria.

There is no report on Correspondence.

Grand Commander Robert Strong and Grand Recorder Richard Lambert were re-elected.

Correspondence Committee: R. E. Samuel M. Todd, R. E. Richard Lambert. It is hoped that the Committee will report.

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#### MAINE—1898.

The Forty-seventh Annual was held in the city of Portland, May 5th. Present: R. E. Fritz H. Twitchell, Grand Commander; R. E. Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder; all the staff except two, ten Past Grand Commanders, four other Past Grand Officers, seventeen Grand Representatives, and the representatives of all the Subordinate Commanderies in the State—nineteen.

The Grand Commander's address is a well-written business document. He reports a state of perfect peace and exceptional prosperity among the Subordinate Commanderies, and commends the "finished" work of some of them in the ritualistic ceremonies of the Order.

Due mention is made of and proper tribute paid to the knightly dead.

He issued twenty-eight dispensations, at least half of them for "pilgrimages," but none for buncombe. His visitations were quite general, pleasant and no doubt helpful. He also allowed several Massachusetts and Rhode Island Commanderies to "*invade*" his Jurisdiction in "full Templar uniform and with music and banners!"

"Didst never meet, far down the street,  
With plumes and banners gay,  
When the kettle for the kettle drum  
Played our march, march away!  
We charged upon a flock of geese  
And put them all to flight,  
Except one sturdy gander  
That thought to show us fight," etc.

"Ephraim is joined to his idols—let him alone!"

His decisions were of local reference only.

Other Grand Officers submitted detailed reports of visitations and inspections made by them, which show a faithful and intelligent performance of duty by each of them.

Proceedings were mostly local. We note that the Grand Commandery spends several hundred dollars on the Triennial trip, and pay Bro. Berry but \$50 for his really excellent reports on Correspondence. If they will just reverse things along here it will be a good move. Speaking of Bro. Berry, we note also that his report as Grand Recorder contains but seven lines!

Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$510.00, more than half of which had been set aside for Triennial expenses.

Our good Bro. Drummond, our Ambassador to Maine, presented the following:

#### MISSISSIPPI RESOLUTIONS.

*To the R. E. Grand Commandery of Maine:*

The undersigned, Representative of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi near this Grand Commandery, respectfully represents:

That it appears from the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, at its Conclave held in 1897, that resolutions in relation to a change in the organic law of the Grand Encampment were adopted, and their Representatives were directed to present the same to their respective Grand Commanderies for their consideration.

The undersigned has received no official notice of these resolutions; and for some reason the Proceedings of 1897 were not received by our Grand Recorder before our last Annual Conclave, so that the resolutions could not be then presented.

This statement is made in order that it may appear that no lack of knightly courtesy towards the Grand Commandery of Mississippi has been the cause of the delay in the presentation of these resolutions to this Grand Commandery.

The resolutions are now presented for the consideration of the Grand Commandery.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,  
Representative of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi.



No one in this neck of the woods would ever think it possible for Bro. Drummond to be anything but courteous, gentle and kind.

The resolutions were referred to the Law Committee, which committee referred them to the Representatives of Maine at the Grand Encampment, for such action as their judgment may suggest.

The same committee deemed legislation inexpedient in the matter of the Tennessee emblem matter.

The Grand Warder of Grand Encampment, R. E. Joseph A. Locke, installed the Grand Commander elect.

Correspondence is the production, as usual, of Bro. Berry, and is worth much more than it cost the Grand Commandery.

Under Canada, and referring to honorary titles, he moralizes thusly :

It is evident that the value of the rank is weakened every time it is conferred without service. As Father Tom said, "Ivery drop of water you put in after that spoils the punch."

It sometimes seems to the transcendental mind that a calf has really five legs if you call the tail one, and it is so simple and easy a method, too ; yet, when equine reason is applied, it somehow fails. Just as with the caterpillar, although you frankly admit it is like buckwheat cake because it makes the butterfly, yet you know, way down in your inner conscience, it can never be so filling.

We are inclined to dissent from the first proposition, but the second is indisputably correct.

Under Colorado this :

Speaking about blackmailing from prejudice, he says :

"Yet the stubborn fact remains. It is sometimes done, and there is no way to prevent it."

Long experience has shown that there are two sides to this question. Sometimes persistence presses a man in, and time shows that the first objector had good judgment and tried to save the craft from a weak man. A man of excellent character is sometimes of such an uncontrollable disposition that he ought to be kept out, and sometimes a candidate misjudges his ability to afford the expense of the Commandery. Nearly always the candidate thinks he can pick out the man who rejected him, and in the cases which we have known he was generally mistaken. There was a man who applied to one of our Lodges to be healed. He was "made a Mason" by Walker, of Nicaragua, when that enterprising Commander initiated his whole command to insure their faithfulness. After being refused he said : "I know just who stopped me. It was that big S \* \* \* He kicked me down stairs out of the lodge-room once." His mistake was that the rejection was unanimous.

This shows how easy it is to be mistaken.

Bro. Berry devotes two pages to Mississippi at Biloxi. He quotes the "unofficial" minute in regard to the appointment of Miss Laura Patrick as "sponsor," and remarks !

We do not know the duties of a sponsor, but suppose such an appointment will not be made obligatory at present.

Her only duty, Sir Stephen, is to look pretty and sweet, which she did.

Under Montana we find :

A new charter was issued to Helena Commandery because the old one, dated in 1871, was too dilapidated to use. It had worn but twenty-six years, while in more effete climates a charter will wear a century. But

we can see how it is. If Hedges had stayed in Connecticut he would have been a quiet plodding Yankee, fighting only the clam-bakes, while there, he is ready to go tearing off to Palestine with sword and buckler, and lance in rest, on a stallion shod with fire, to fight the Mussulmans.

If Cornelius was not so old, we would be in favor of some action to curb his thirst for modern gore and preserve the peace of the world. As the swell-head of Germany is now an ally of the sick man of "Yurrupe," our Bro. Cornelius will have his hands full if he attempts to oust the "unspeakable" from Palestine under existing conditions.

He closes his admirable report as follows:

We began our report with a picture of the beautiful white squadron brooding like doves upon the peaceful waters. Now its color is changed to the leaden hue of war, and its guns are thundering death and destruction among the Spaniards, while the noble Maine has gone up to immortality in a chariot of fire.

Every generation has for itself to learn what war is: 1750, 1776, 1812, 1845, 1861, 1898.

Let us earnestly hope and pray that the war will soon be over, and that our brave boys may come marching home again, safe and sound. Then will our good ships again put on their fair robes of white and come sailing back into peaceful waters, where the sun will not smite their gallant crews by day nor the pestilence by night.

Your prayer is heard, Bro. Berry, as the war is over practically, and has been for some months (we write November 21).

Total membership, 3,344—a gain of 191!

R.: E.: Frank E. Sleeper is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### MARYLAND—1897.

A Special Conclave was held in Baltimore, April 18th. R.: E.: Sir George Cook, Grand Commander; E.: Sir John Hy. Miller, Grand Recorder. Nearly all of the staff was present. A large number of Past Grand Officers and members of the Body were in attendance. A pleasant feature of the opening was the singing by the assembled Knights of that grand old hymn and tribute of praise and adoration to the Captain of our Salvation:

"All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall,  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown him Lord of all," etc.

The Mississippi resolutions were read and referred to a committee of four Past Grand Commanders (with Bro. Gorgas at the head) and the Grand Sword Bearer.

The Eminent Commanders of the Subordinate Commanderies were then installed—that duty being the principal object of the Special Conclave—after which the brethren sang:

"Stand up! Stand up for Jesus," etc.

The Grand Commandery then adjourned.

The Twenty-seventh Annual was held in the city of Baltimore, November 23d. There were present all the Grand Officers except the Sw. Bearer, twenty-one Grand Representatives, fifteen Past Grand Commanders and the representatives of twelve Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is a well-written and interesting *resume* of his administration. We excerpt from his opening :

As we meet around this altar let us urge a renewal of those fraternal feelings which bind us into one band of brotherhood. Before entering into the labors before us let us return our humble thanks to our Heavenly Father for the protecting care, peace, happiness and bounteous goodness which have been bestowed upon the people of this nation in general, and our beloved Order in particular.

During the past year history has recorded events which, for the time being, overshadowed our nation, but, thanks to our Creator for the wisdom bestowed upon the people and statesmen of our beloved country, whereby these clouds have been dispelled, as the sun penetrates the fog, war and calamities have been averted, and it gives us pleasure to note that we are at peace with the whole world. So also is this Grand Commandery at peace with all sister Jurisdictions. Good will and fellowship prevail throughout our entire Order. Let us hope that it may be forever thus, until time shall be no more.

While we were "at peace with all the world" when the above was written, we have had a war of sufficient importance to enhance the prestige and glory of the American soldier and sailor, and to convince Continental Europe that it won't pay to monkey with the two great English-speaking nations of the earth.

He reported that 331 had been knighted from January 1, 1864, to April 1, 1897; that 230 of these had been uniformed, leaving 101 without what, too often, makes the Templar as the tailor does the man.

He recommended the adoption of a "military overcoat or cloak, for use during inclement weather and in the winter."

He reported no decisions; issued a lot of dispensations for proper purposes, and refused to grant some others. He witnessed the conferring of the Templar Order by Grand Master Thomas and remarks :

The solemn impressiveness of the work was such as has been seldom, if ever, equalled in this Jurisdiction, and a man who is not deeply sensitive of his duties while hearing such must indeed possess a heart of stone.

The ordinary Grand Commander and Grand Master is so proficient in the work and lectures that he would not know the ritual if he should meet it on the street! We are glad to know that our present Grand Master is one of the exceptions that prove the rule.

Appropriate mention is made of the knightly dead, both of his own and sister Jurisdictions.

The Grand Commandery performed the last sad rites for Past Grand Commander Kleibacker, whose body was cremated and only the ashes buried in the cemetery, a plan of disposition of human bodies that commends itself as far preferable to burial in the ground, with its danger of burial alive, and, in many cases, its menace to life and health.

We clip the following as being likely to interest you :

I would, therefore, recommend that Standing Resolution of May, 1878, be so amended that the amount received for each companion knighted be increased to \$5.00, for I find that the Grand Lodge of Maryland receives \$7.00 for each initiation, where the fee is the same as in the Com-maunders.

These figures, *i. e.*, the Grand Lodge fee for degrees, look decidedly large.

He dwells largely and unnecessarily, we think, in his conclusion, upon what he has noted and heard of the lack of fraternity, or rather a feeling of that sort, in the hearts of those who have only taken the "lower" degrees—so called by some—toward what someone has facetiously called the "horse Masons." He "protests against," their speaking in "language sarcastic to our noble order!" It occurs to your committee that this protest was simply a waste of wax, because people who are so narrow-minded as these are too trifling to talk or think about.

On the whole, the address is an excellent one.

The committee to which the Mississippi resolutions went made an elaborate report, and wound up with the opinion that the resolutions should not be adopted.

The Grand Treasury contains a balance of \$1,252.54. Total membership, 1,197—a net gain of sixty-five.

Our old and valued friend and brother, F. J. S. Gorgas, presented his twenty-first and final report as Correspondent, which covers eighty-eight pages, and reviews the minutes of forty-one Templar Legislatures in his usual courteous and fraternal style, Mississippi for 1897 among the rest.

It is a matter of sincere regret that our good brother has concluded to withdraw from service in this field, where he has served with such marked ability, and to his own honor and the best interests of our Order, for so many years. We earnestly pray that the blessing and providential care of our Common Lord be and abide with him always. We feel extremely pleasant at the privilege we have of copying the following parting words to and of your committee. Coming from the exceptionally high source they do, these words of commendation and appreciation, they are most highly prized. Fully reciprocating every kindly word and wish of our dear brother, we say, Good-bye, until we meet at Jesus' feet, where the parting hand is never taken. Here is the excerpt:

For seventeen years we have enjoyed beyond measure the perusal of our frater's annual reports, and one of the greatest regrets we feel in saying farewell to a respected friend and co-laborer in the reportorial field is that we may no longer be able to note the many excellent ideas and sound reasonings, as well as humorous sayings (in which there has always been method as well as humor) which have characterized all of his reports, and to which, in preparing our reviews, we have always turned with pleasure. Using his own words to the Correspondents, we earnestly pray that heaven's choicest blessings may rest upon Sir Knight DeLap, and that he may long be spared to still further honor the Grand Com-mandery in the future, as he has done in the past, by faithful services, the true value of which may only be fully appreciated when he is called upon to lay aside his early duties for more exalted ones.

No doubt Bro. Edward T. Shultz, who succeeds to the Correspondence,

will get up a good report, but it will take him a long time to fill his distinguished predecessor's place in the hearts of the Mutuals.

R. E. Sir Thomas J. Shryock is Grand Commander; E. Sir John H. Miller re-elected Grand Recorder; Past Grand Commander E. T. Shultz, Correspondent.

#### MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND—1898.

The Ninety-second Semi-Annual was held in the city of Providence, May 31st, was largely attended, but the proceedings were entirely local in interest.

The Ninety-second Annual was held in "The Hub," October 27th. There were in attendance R. E. Sir Walter Cutting, Grand Commander; E. Sir Benjamin W. Rowell, Grand Recorder; all the balance of the Grand Officers, thirteen Past Grand Commanders and the representatives of all the Subordinate Commanderies (46).

The Grand Recorder reported that *twenty-five days after the close of last Annual the Proceedings were printed and distributed.*

The Grand Commander opens an able and interesting address as follows:

Another year has rolled by with its changes, troubles, joys, griefs and pleasures, and to me is given the honor of welcoming you to the Ninety-second Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars and Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It has been a very successful year for us. The gain in numbers has been large. Peace and brotherly love have prevailed within our ranks; and, while I feel sure we have all improved both in our work and drill, and whatever else tends to make us good Knight Templars in the abstract, I hope we have also gained in that courtesy and those good traits of character that make us really good men. "A mystic band of brotherhood makes all men one." We are to day the largest Commandery in the world, and, I hope and believe, the best. In 1897 we numbered 12,313 swords. This year, as you hear from the report of our Grand Recorder, we number 12,734—a gain of 421.

Our brother's assumption that his Commandery is the *best*, as well as the largest, is out of order. He evidently believes in the rule, "Blow your own trumpet, if you don't sell a clam," and acts accordingly. Our Bosting brethren are a little prone to magnify their own accomplishments and environments, but as the amusement is harmless we don't seriously object.

Appropriate mention is made of the knightly dead, both of his own and sister Commanderies.

He issued a big batch of dispensations, some for religious exercises, according to the tactics, some to attend balls and yet others to go on "pilgrimage," others to go hunting for the "Holy Grail," all of which seems to tickle the palates of our brethren and is none of our business.

His decisions are in accord with the Code as it stands, but we are of the opinion that, when a Commandery rejects a petition for the Orders, that she thereby secures perpetual jurisdiction without regard to resi-

dence. Both Massachusetts and Rhode Island and New Hampshire are, however, of a contrary mind, and as it is not our picnic, we subside.

The R. E. includes in his address the correspondence between himself and the "P. M. P. Z., P. E. P. and P. W. S." of Preceptory, No. 38, England and Wales, located at Hamilton, Bermuda, which complained of a want of courtesy on the part of one C. W. Sawyer, Recorder of Hugh de Payens Commandery, of Melrose, Mass., in failing to reply to a courteous letter of inquiry, and submitted the query to the R. E. with a statement of facts, to which the R. E. replied as follows:

*Sir George Simpson, P. M. P. Z., P. E. P., P. W. S.:*

DEAR SIR—For some unaccountable reason, your communication of February 23d reached me only a few days since. Whether detained in the mail, or in what manner, I cannot tell, but you will please accept my apology for the delay in my reply.

As to your complaint concerning the conduct of Sir C. W. Sawyer, in not answering yours of November 12th, 1836, let us pass that by, as perhaps he considered he had no right to communicate to you officially, or that he had some other good reason for not doing so. I consider that he had no right to tell you why, even if he knew the cause of the rejection of any applicant for the Orders of Knighthood, in Hugh de Payens Commandery. In the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island we do not recognize any Knights Templar receiving that Order in any foreign Jurisdiction, for the reason that they have not received the Order of the Red Cross. Our Constitution requires a candidate to take that Order before he can be made a Knight Templar. This Order you do not give; and, although we do not consider your Sir Knights as absolutely clandestine, they would not be allowed to sit in any Commandery of our Jurisdiction without first taking this Order and being healed.

With regard to your conferring Orders on any candidate resident in the limits of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, we claim that you have no right to do so, as they are simply sojourners while in your Jurisdiction, and cannot receive Orders there without release of Jurisdiction from our Grand Commandery.

Hoping that this will make clear to you the answer to your questions, and thanking you for copy of your By-Laws, I am,

WALTER CUTTING,  
Grand Commander.

Our Bro. Simpson, notwithstanding the elongated character of his letter, has our sympathy, as it occurs to this scribe that the silence of Sawyer would be preferable to the roar of the Grand Commandery. In this connection we would inquire, in all seriousness, why in the very devil Sawyer had no right to tell Simpson what he wanted to know if he (Sawyer) was himself in possession of the necessary knowledge? Is the Grand Commander of Massachusetts and Rhode Island authorized to act as censor of the writings and utterances of the Knights of his "obedience?" I presume the silence of Sawyer resulted from a fear of getting drawn and quartered if he meddled with the matter of "foreign relations." If we were in Simpson's place we would gobble up all the good timber that came to winter in the Bermudas and make bob-tailed Templars of them, just for spite. There is lots of humbuggery in this world.

The proceedings were confined to local matters, mostly.

The Grand Recorder reports total gains 797, made up as follows: Knighted, 75; affiliated, 34; restored, 18=797! Our limited knowledge of "Matthew-Mattocks" makes it difficult for us to understand how such a large *total* can be worked out of the sparse material used, but the fact remains. He then gives the "losses" as 376, made up of these items: Dimitted, 82; died, 201; suspended, 74, and expelled, 9=376, according to his figures! He then deducts the losses from the gains, and reports a net gain of 421! Total membership, 12,734.

How he arrives at these startling results from the figures given is a matter of surprise to us, but we can't "go behind the returns!"

The Treasurer's report shows expenditures on account of the Pittsburg blow-out of \$2,750, made up of these items: Regular appropriation, \$2,000; allowance of \$50 each to fifteen Present and Past Grand Officers, \$750=\$2,750. The cigar bill at Semi-Annual Conclave was \$26.00, and if they all smoked they must have been very temperate, or cabbage is very cheap up there! Two hundred dollars was the cost of "dinners" at the same time. We also find an item of \$3.60 for "canvas covering for United States Regulars," and would respectfully inquire what right the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island had to encase "United States Regulars" in canvas? If the whole army was "canvased," the contractor was bound to lose money on the job at \$3.60. However, we beg pardon for meddling with the domestic affairs of our brethren, and express the hope that our observations will not provoke their ire.

A portrait of the R. E. makes a handsome frontispiece, while further over we find a group picture of the present Grand Officers adorns a page. There are eighteen faces, and not an ugly one in the lot, nor one that does not look like he is smart enough for President of the United States. Nor is there one that looks like he could, by any possible means, be induced to do a mean or unworthy act.

Hurrah for the Imperial Templar Jurisdiction of the World!

Our esteemed friend and brother, Rev. H. W. Rugg, D.D., plays a lone hand at Correspondence, and takes all the tricks. We are and have been opposed to double-barreled guns, except for hunting birds, claiming, as we do, that when a man goes after big game, such as elephants, rhinastycuriouscusses, and such, which are aptly represented by such grand intellects as Carson, Corson, Hedges, *et al.*, it is better to take a ten-inch, rapid-fire gun than a Gatling.

Bro. Rugg occupies 106 pages in reviewing, in his accustomed courteous and interesting style, the proceedings of nearly the entire Templar family of "Grands," Mississippi *not* included.

His "opening chorus" is quite long—too long, in fact, for us to appropriate; but it is good and instructive. We have room for this much of it, however:

Now cometh peace after victory. Masons and Knights Templar, in common with other brave men not of our Fraternity, have done their duty on land and sea, and have helped to make the glorious record that has gone out to all the world. The story will long be told, not only of the fierce conflict at Manila and Santiago, but of that gentle, generous senti-

ment shown by the victors toward the vanquished, which furnishes a beautiful illustration of that true chivalry the world so much admires. The war has given to us a new list of heroes—men of the regal stamp, like Hobson, and Dewey, and others, whose names even now are household words throughout the length and breadth of our land—men whom we delight to honor because of their brave deeds, but who attract us not the less because of their tenderness and humanity. Yes, “the bravest are tenderest;” and we may well rejoice that we have the new object lessons attesting this truth, as when the commander of one of the American war ships called out to his men, flushed with triumph at the destruction of Admiral Cervera's fleet: “Don't cheer, boys; the poor fellows are dying.” Magnanimity, gentleness and a reverent tenderness characterize the great soul, and serve to mark the genuineness of that chivalry which may be shown in every-day life, in the time of peace as well as in war.

As Knights Templar we wear the sword and promise to wield it, if need be, in the cause of right; but we hold confidently to the thought that the time comes hastening on when all the nations and peoples of the earth shall be at peace,—when the law of God and the love of God shall be universally recognized, and when there shall be no war. We wait patiently and hopefully for that day, long prophesied of, to dawn—that day in which

All men's good shall  
Be each man's rule; and universal peace  
Lie, like a shaft of light, across the land.

All of which we endorse. We suggest, however, that if any of our Templar warriors go to war at any time, they had better take a gun and leave their “trusty claymores” at home, as with the latter they would be a menace to the safety of themselves and our army!

We have already devoted lots of space to the Old Bay State and Little Rhody, hence will clip a poetical gem with which Bro. Rugg closes his report, and which we presume is original:

Touch hands, Sir Knights, touch hearts and lives;  
At Friendship's shrine we kneel—  
The compact of fraternity  
Within this presence seal!

We tread earth's pathway side by side,  
The blue skies bend o'er all,  
The sunbeams on each life descend,  
On each the shadows fall.

Then let us strew the way with flowers,  
With deeds that never die,  
With words that shine immortally,  
As stars gleam in the sky!

Forgive past wrongs, forget past slights,  
Ignore the weeds that thrive;  
Look to the hills whence cometh strength,  
Keep chivalry alive!

Pluck not the thorns; the roses bloom,  
Their fragrance fills the air—  
Life's sunshine far exceeds its shade,  
Hope triumphs o'er despair!



Touch hands, touch hands, then, Brother Knights.  
 Beneath the conq'ring sign  
 We'll march to reach the heavenly land  
 And gain its peace divine!

Be brave, be true—the Holy Grail  
 We seek, as Knights of old;  
 'Tis found where noble deeds are done,  
 When for the right we're bold!

Beneath earth's outward show we see  
 The virtue that's concealed—  
 Fragrant as arbutus in spring,  
 To patient search revealed.

The art of living is to love  
 The best, where'er it be;  
 To know the good, to do the right,  
~~Makes~~ true nobility.

Touch hands, touch hearts, 'tis better so  
 To walk the pilgrim way;  
 The evening shadows soon will come  
 To end life's little day;

But morning dawns beyond the clouds,  
 Love conquers even death,  
 And in the cross there's vict'ry, though  
 We lose life's fleeting breath.

We nominate our brother as Templar Poet Laureate—and he is elected!

R. E. George L. Shipley is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MICHIGAN—1898.

The Forty-second Annual was held in the city of Port Huron, May 17th. Present: R. E. Sir Albert Stiles, Grand Commander; R. E. John A. Gerow, Grand Recorder; all the staff except the Captain-General, twelve Past Grand Commanders, two Past Deputy Grand Commanders, twenty-two Past Commanders and representatives of forty-four out of the forty-six Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address covers thirty pages, and is a *resume* of what appears to have been a successful administration.

Proper tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the knightly dead.

He made quite a number of decisions, but none of general interest. His dispensations were multitudinous, but all for proper purposes.

He refused to allow one of his Subordinates to escort their local soldiery to the station on their way to teach the haughty Dons a lesson in gunnery and war in general. We are pretty sure that, had we been in his place, we should have told the boys to go ahead, escort or do anything else needing to be done in order to give our soldier boys a good start!

Anything that hinders the spontaneous eruptions of patriotic fervor at such times as those were, is subversive of the true principles of knight-hood, and are, therefore, not binding! He visited, officially, twenty-five of his Subordinates, had pleasant times, and, no doubt, did good. He says:

I have endeavored in these visits of inspection to ascertain, as near as may be, their true condition and the manner their work is being done for common. I am fully convinced that there is the same necessity for an inspector or instructor for the rendition of the work and drill in opening of our Subordinate Commanderies as there is of a Grand Lecturer in Chapter or Blue Lodge, and I believe it for the best interest of Templar Masonry that some method should be adopted to bring about a reform of the manner in which the work is now being done by many of the Commanderies in our Grand Jurisdiction; fully believing that the candidate for Orders is entitled to the very best efforts of the Commandery in conferring the Orders of Knighthood upon him, for which they have demanded his money as well as obligations, and the Commandery has no moral right to render to him a farce or defraud him of what he has a right to expect and has paid for, than he has to pay the fees in Mexican dollars. I may have, in some of my criticisms, seemed somewhat severe, and I desire here to assure the Officers and Sir Knights that what I have said and done in that direction was with a spirit of kindness and friendship and what I deemed for their interest and the best interest of Templar Masonry throughout our State.

We excerpt the following,

At our last Annual Conclave the Committee on Masonic Home recommended that the sum of \$500 be appropriated from any funds in the treasury of this Grand Commandery, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Control for the support of the Home, and the report of the committee, I believe, was accepted and adopted by this Grand Body.

I regret, however, that the condition of our treasury for the past year has been such that the recommendation could not be complied with unless a loan was made for that purpose, which I deemed a poor business policy, and therefore the appropriation was not made.

For the purpose of remarking that, in our humble opinion, it would have been better to pay the \$500 into the treasury of this grand charity than to save it to spend at the Triennial show at the Smoky City; or, if they must open headquarters and a "bar" on that occasion, the amount might have been saved by declining to pay people for attending the funeral obsequies of the distinguished dead of the Order, as is the custom in that bailiwick! We excerpt from the report of the Finance Committee to illustrate:

We note that it has been the custom of late years to pay mileage and per diem to the officers of the Grand Commandery, including Past Grand Commanders, for their attendance at the funeral of an officer of this Grand Body. And we find that during the last two years a sum amounting to nearly \$1,200 has been paid for this purpose, as shown by the warrants of the Grand Recorder.

Your committee believe that better business methods and greater economy should prevail in the disbursements of the Grand Commandery funds, and in view of the fact of the limited resources as compared with its necessary expenses, your committee recommend that in future only the first five officers of this Grand Body be paid for their attendance at the funeral of any officer thereof, and then only their actual expenses.

This thing of neglecting the living to pay questionable honors to the

dead, strikes us as being considerably "off color." We say "questionable honors," because there is a large element of doubt as to the genuineness of sympathy and affection that has to be bolstered up by a trip ticket and hotel bills to secure its attendance at the funeral!

Total membership, 5,635—a gain of 113.

Past Grand Commander and Grand Recorder Gerow submitted his fifth report on Correspondence, which covers 132 pages of the pamphlet, and digests the minutes of nearly all the Templar governing bodies in his usual sensible and courteous style. We note the absence of Mississippi, owing, no doubt, to the interminable delay in publishing our Proceedings. We regret to note, also, that our brother is unequal to the numerous demands made upon him, and, therefore, retires from this field of labor, which he has adorned by faithful and intelligent service.

R. E. Sir Francis M. Moore is Grand Commander; E. E. Sir John A. Gerow is again Grand Recorder; R. E. Sir Hy. L. Anthony, Correspondent.

#### MINNESOTA—1898.

The Thirty-third Annual was held in the city of Faribault, June 24th. Present: R. E. Sir Benjamin F. Farmer, Grand Commander; R. E. Thomas Montgomery, Grand Recorder; quite a number of Past Grand Officers, Grand Representatives, and delegates from nineteen of the twenty-five Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is comparatively short, and is business from end to end. He reports a year of Templar prosperity, not so much in the line of increased growth as in other directions. His visitations were quite general, and to this is added the visitations of his staff as Inspectors, the two covering the entire field. He prefaces his notice of the knightly dead as follows:

There is a legend that the Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, reproached him for being converted to Christianity. He replied by inviting her to a test of the power of her religion and his. Crato and Zeno, the famous Greek philosophers, were the judges. Zambri, the magician of Helena, said: "I know the name of the Omnipotent. Let them bring me the fiercest wild bull that can be found, and when I have uttered the name in his ear he will fall dead." And so it came to pass. But Sylvester, on Constantine's side, said: "The name he has pronounced cannot be that of God, but of Satan: for Christ does not strike the living dead, but restores the dead to life. Let Zambri restore the dead creature to life." But he could not. Then Sylvester made the sign of the cross, and the bull rose up alive, and no longer fierce, but tame and gentle. The crowning glory and boast of the Christian religion, whose cause we, as Knights Templar, have espoused, is in saving men; in giving life to the dead; in the transition from earth to heaven, the future asylum, where we all hope to enter through the power and love of Christ.

Whatever crazy sorrow saith,  
No life that breathes with human breath  
Has ever truly longed for death.  
'Tis life whereof our nerves are scant;  
'Tis life, not death, for which we pant—  
More life and fuller that we want.

A beautiful conception and very appropriate.

He issued but few dispensations, and they for legitimate purposes. Only one Commandery was religious in uniform, and only twenty-three members of that entered the courts of God's house with swords.

We clip the following as being antagonistic to common sense and as a specimen of the trend of Grand Encampment legislation in the direction of unwarranted and presumptuous interferences and meddling with the purely domestic economy of the Subordinate Commanderies:

It has come to my knowledge that some of our Commanderies have conferred the Orders of Knighthood on ministers of the Gospel, without collecting the fee required for conferring the Orders on candidates. I quote from the Code, which forbids this practice, and which should govern all Commanderies in this State: "Title 24, section 1. The fees for the Orders cannot be remitted, directly or indirectly, by vote of money to the candidate. Sec. 2. No custom, however long it has existed, justifies the conferring of the Orders upon anyone without payment of the prescribed fees."

I wish some enthusiastic admirer of the Central Body would kindly tell us what business it is of theirs to say what disposition Subordinates of Grand Commanderies shall make of their own money? The custom of conferring the Orders on ministers gratis is an old one, and will be continued to the end of the chapter, if the Grand Marplot legislates against it until its members get black in the face. We heard of a man, out West, who got rich by minding his own business all the time, but his name was *not* Grand Encampment.

We excerpt this from his "Conclusion":

"There is a measureless blessing in the fellowship of loving kindness; it makes the world wider and warmer, and gives a better zest to human life. The Order of Knights Templar stands for this to-day, as always. It stands for unwearied zeal in a brother's cause, and a benevolence as universal as the benediction of him whose cross we wear."

It is all right to say that the Order stands for "unwearied zeal in a brother's cause," etc., but our observation is that lots of the *members*, instead of standing for these things, take a back seat and remain seated while the process passes!

The proceedings were mostly routine, and of local interest only. The finances are in good shape. Total membership, 2,534—a gain of eighty-seven. Ho for Pittsburg!

Past Grand Commander and Grand Recorder Thomas Montgomery is the paternal ancestor of the Correspondence report, in which he digests the minutes of forty-six Templar-governing bodies in his usual courteous and interesting style.

R. E. Sir W. E. Richardson is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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#### MISSOURI—1898.

The Thirty-seventh Annual was held in the city of St. Louis, April 26th, R. E. Sir John Gillies, Grand Commander, presiding; E. Sir William H. Mayo, Grand Recorder. Thirty-two Grand Representatives—not including ours—representatives from fifty Subordinate Commanderies

out of fifty-eight, and a large number of Past Grand Officers, were in attendance. Two Grand Officers, the Deputy Grand Commander and Grand Sword Bearer were absent.

The Grand Commander's address is a short but well-written *resume* of his administration. We copy a part of his "opening":

**SIR KNIGHTS**—Another year has gone. It has been hidden in the depths of the unreturning past. Its seed and harvest, its waxing and waning, its frondage and fruitage, its smiles and tears, are now with us only a memory and a dream, growing faint and fainter still with the fast receding hours. In the unrecorded history of our every life no doubt there has been something of sin and sorrow, for the most knightly man among us is yet only a man, and as such is subject to temptation—to the weakness that ever marks and mars our poor humanity, and the pain that cometh after. Nevertheless, to our pilgrim feet the rough way has been made smooth, and in the darkest night the desert has been lighted up with the splendor of the wondrous pillar of fire that to the eye of faith ever flames and flashes above the resting place of the ark of God and the hope of Israel. And, since to that life most shaded by misfortunes the year has been crowned and crowded with mercies, let us, **WITH UNCOVERED HEADS**, render thanksgiving to our Supreme Grand Commander, who has guided our footsteps during the year.

Eloquent and touching tribute is paid to the memory and merits of the knightly dead. The list, however, is remarkably short, containing but six names, which, considering the number of members in that Jurisdiction, is a matter of surprise as well as gratitude.

He issued quite a number of dispensations, but all for practical purposes except one, which authorizes one of his Subordinates to confer the Orders on a companion elected by a Kansas Commandery. As this was simply an act of courtesy and kindness, we see no good reason for the introduction of the "red tape" element into the transaction.

We clip a portion of his remarks anent their "Masonic Home":

So far as our observation has measured and mastered the situation, no suggestion is in order with reference to the management of the Home. We, therefore, only congratulate our brethren, and urge upon all who may need this exhortation that they give to this great and noble enterprise all the support that is possible, not only in material things, but also, and if possible more particularly in pressing its claim upon the attention of all throughout this Grand Jurisdiction, that it may become more and more a glory and a power, so that in the years to come our children and children's children may rejoice in the foundation which their fathers have laid, and may build higher yet its walls and towers, that all the world may note our good works; and, more important still, that it may welcome the distressed and helpless in greater number from year to year, and prove itself an asylum for the desolate and a nursing mother to the little ones whom God and nature have delivered over to our care, that we may be enabled in our endeavor to train them for a high and holy life.

Hear him in regard to our late brush with the Dons, and note that he proved himself a true prophet:

As I stand thus in your dignified presence I remember that to-day, on our eastern sea-board, the red clouds of war are gathering ominously, and soon, perhaps, the hot-throated cannons, those terrible "dogs of war," may shake the western world with their thunderous baying, while the Temple of Janus, its doors wide open flung, shall send out its dread

enginery, intensified a thousandfold in its fearful power by the genius of the age. I know that gallant men will command our fleets and lead our armies—a new generation of Farraguts and Porters, of Grants and Lees, of Jacksons and Sheridans, will spring to the front and carry our starry banner on to Victory. But among them will be found no more of patriotic zeal and pure enthusiasm than burns in your hearts; no more knightly manhood than we recognize in our ranks to-day. And should our country's need require, we will rally to her call, and the pilgrim from "Auld Scotia's classic sod," who has found a home among you, will not be the last to gather with you to the battle.

The address, as a whole, is an elegant paper, and reflects great credit on its distinguished author, a portrait of whom makes an admirable frontispiece to the pamphlet.

Proceedings mostly local. Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of over \$5,000, which will enable them to take in the Triennial at Pittsburg without borrowing money or making an assessment.

The reports of the officers of the "Home" show total collections for that object of \$16,668.72, of which \$14,717.50 was contributed by the Grand Lodge and \$27.00 by Knights Templar of St. Louis, Christmas service! This looks a little shaky, but can be satisfactorily explained, no doubt.

The disbursements amounted to \$12,088.21. Treasury holds a balance of \$7,997.79. There are 123 inmates, viz.: 51 girls, 37 boys, 17 old brothers and 18 old ladies. Nine hundred and thirty dollars and thirty cents was paid for the two items of taxes and insurance. As we have had occasion to remark before, the great State of Missouri is in very small business when exacting taxes from an institution of this sort.

Total membership, 4,311—a gain of 74. Suspended and expelled, 119; dimitted, 80; died, 48=247; against a gain of 321.

Grand Recorder Mayo presents the report on Correspondence—his twenty-first—which covers 101 pages of the pamphlet, digests the minutes of most of the Templar Grands, and, like the other twenty, is an excellent one. We regret the absence of our pamphlet from his table. He concludes as follows:

We have had a pleasant journey through forty-two of the forty-three Templar Grand Jurisdictions of the United States, Mississippi being the only one that we have missed. We have also had a nice little visit with our fraters of Canada and England, but we regret that we have not had anything from our cousins in Ireland or Scotland.

We have paid our respects rather briefly to forty-four Grand Bodies, after carefully perusing some 6,690 pages of printed matter, and have done our best to boil it down into 100 pages, and give the most important and interesting matter we could glean from so much of interest.

The following table contains some very interesting facts, when carefully studied in all its parts, dealing as it does with the calendar year 1897 only.

We are pleased to note an improvement in the make-up and style of the various pamphlets and books as they reach us; nearly all are now embellished with good half-tone cuts or steel engraved portraits of Past Presiding Officers and distinguished fraters, with short biographical sketches. This is very important and satisfactory to all readers of the

official proceedings of our various Masonic Grand Bodies, and will be appreciated far more by future generations.

The table referred to shows that the pamphlets of forty-four Grand Bodies contained 8,691 pages; that there are 1,010 Subordinate Commanderies, with a total membership of 114,495. Quite an army, but not worth shucks as fighters.

Sir Morris Fred Bell is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### MONTANA—1898.

The Eleventh Annual was held in the city of Helena, September 12th. There were present R. E. Sir W. E. Chamberlain, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Ed. D. Neill, Grand Recorder; all the balance of the Grand Officers, five Past Grand Commanders, six Past Eminent Commanders and representatives of eight Subordinate Commanderies.

The opening was preceded by "devotional offices" on Sunday night, which were said to be solemn and interesting.

The address of the Grand Commander is a short but interesting *resume* of his administration, in which we find nothing of general interest.

We copy his "opening chorus":

*Dear Fraters:*

Another Templar year has passed beyond recall. To-day, like fabled Janus, we stand reviewing the past and peering into the unknown future.

The Supreme Architect of the Universe, in His infinite mercy, has again permitted us to assemble around the altar, in peace and harmony, with unbroken ranks. The grim destroyer, the Angel of Death, though hovering near, has withheld from us the blow which ends each earthly pilgrimage. For this, Sir Knights, and for the innumerable blessings which are constantly showered upon us, we should be duly thankful.

Not a link in the golden chain that unites this Grand Body has been severed; throughout our Jurisdiction harmony and good feeling prevail, and Templar Masonry is in a healthy and prosperous condition, with bright prospects for the future.

Mindful of the objects for which we have met, I trust that our deliberations may be characterized by an earnest desire to promote the best interests of Templarism.

Our Order in every land has always stood for God and country, religion and humanity. Especially has this Grand Commandery, through resolutions and Correspondence Reports, been outspoken against Turkish outrages. In raising our protest against Turkish massacres of Christians in Armenia and the more recent crime against Greece, we have often been reminded that Spain's cruelties, in Cuba particularly, demanded our sympathies and intervention in behalf of humanity. Little did we think when we last parted that the crisis was so near at hand. Of course, the great powers that showed their indifference to Armenian Christian massacres and the oppression of Greece, readily upheld Spain's prescriptive right to kill, starve and banish her Cuban subjects, and our nation was reminded that it was none of our business to interfere, and that such interference would endanger the peace of the world and call down upon our country the active hostilities of the combined powers of Europe. The destruction of the Maine in the harbor of Havana finally so concentrated

public opinion that our government was forced to declare war, let the consequences be what they would. Well, the war has come and gone! After a series of defeats on sea and land Spain has sued for peace on our own terms, which include her final withdrawal from this continent and possibly the loss of her Pacific possessions.

It ought to be cause for thanksgiving to the God of the nations that He has given such signal success to our arms. The oppressor has been disarmed and the oppressed go free.

We mourn the loss of those fallen in battle and by disease; we rejoice in a reunited people at home; in the outspoken sympathy of the whole English-speaking people of the world; in the glory that has come to our arms without a single defeat or great disaster; and above all, that cruel Spain has been forced to let go her hold upon every part of this American continent. Among the special objects to which our Order stands pledged is the protection of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian religion. In no war of ancient or modern times have these objects been so prominently kept in view. It therefore deserves Templar benedictions.

And to those of our own family circle who have gone forth to this war we should send such hearty greetings, such tender remembrances that they may be cheered and strengthened with the assurance that our hearts are with them and that they are never forgotten.

The Angel of Death has silently passed us by during the year now closing. Not one member of our Order in this State has been summoned to the presence of his Maker.

He made no decisions and issued no improper dispensations. From his "recommendations" we clip what follows, and commend it to the careful scrutiny of those Templars who are always harping on the glory and greatness of the founders of our Order. It is very gratifying to this Reporter to know that the primitive Knights had sense enough to know that swords and other implements of warfare have no place in a church, and therefore left them outside, an example, it is to be hoped, which will be more generally followed when our modern Knights are attacked by pious inclinations:

The form of Knights Templar service for Easter and Ascension Sunday, as promulgated by this Grand Commandery, contemplates the use of the sword in church or place of worship which we may attend. I consider this an erroneous practice, and recommend that it be obliterated from the ritual, or at least that the Subordinate Commanderies have the option of using it.

From our limited research in history we are informed that our ancient brethren, whose example we strive to emulate in many things, on entering a place of Divine worship, always left their arms and equipments on the outside. Why should we, except for show, encumber our movements and disturb others at worship with our swords, which we do not know how to use uniformly and quietly as we should? We can assert our faith in the Gospel less attractively, but with more solemnity, without our swords.

A portrait of the R. E. makes the frontispiece of the pamphlet. It is followed by a "Roll of Honor" on the next page, which contains the names and rank of Montana Templars in our army that disposed of the countrymen of Don Quixote de la Mancha during the current year. A very commendable and happy conceit.

Proceedings were routine and local. Order in a healthy state, finan-



cially and otherwise. Total membership, 304—a gain of eight. Balance in treasury—“General fund,” \$706.97; “Triennial fund,” \$570.85=\$1,277.82.

The Triennial fund has been in process of collection for three years, or since the Boston blow-out. A good idea.

The principal dish in this feast is the report on Fraternal Correspondence, and, as our venerable Bro. Hedges is the chef, it is bound to be first-class. It covers eighty-seven pages, and considers the minutes of a large proportion of the Templar Legislatures in our brother's own peculiar and inimitable style, Mississippi being *non est*.

He opens with an eloquent arraignment of Spain for her many crimes against God, humanity and civilization. The closing paragraph proves him to be no mean prophet. He says:

“Ere this report is finished probably the case will be settled, either by peaceable or forcible means.”

And so it has been. Spain, soundly basted, her navy turned to a submarine fleet, her colonies wrested from her and her haughty and insolent pride humbled, she presents a pitiable spectacle of the mighty fallen. It is to be hoped that her adversities may regenerate and save her as a nation and a people.

R. E. Edward C. Day is Grand Commander; Sir Ed. D. Neill, Grand Recorder, and R. E. Cornelius M. Hedges, Correspondent.

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#### NEBRASKA—1898.

A pamphlet of thirty-four pages contains the proceedings of the Twenty-sixth Annual Conclave of this Grand Body, which has a constituency of 1,655 members and an annual income of \$1,679.00! We presume, however, that our brethren are operating under the old, but true, saying, “Brevity is the soul of wit.” They seem, also, to be “long” on art and jewels and “short” on literature, as they indulge in the luxury of a portrait of their retiring Grand Commander, and which makes an elegant frontispiece for the booklet; to this add \$80 for a jewel for that officer, and we have \$95.00 for art and jewels! and not a dollar for Correspondence, although the R. E. expresses the hope that the time will soon come when this want will be supplied.

An examination of the Treasurer's report shows that they pay \$7 per page for printing and electrotyping their Proceedings, and this exorbitant charge is sufficient excuse for the smallness of their pamphlet. Why they electotype their Proceedings we cannot imagine; nor do we see why it should cost \$250.00 to print a pamphlet of thirty-four pages in Nebraska, when we get 1,200 copies of Grand Lodge Proceedings, of over 300 pages each, for \$445.50. We mention this to let our Bro. Bowen know that his printers are euchreing him and the Grand Commandery!

R. E. Sir Edwin C. Webster, Grand Commander, presided, with R. E. Sir W. R. Bowen, Grand Recorder. Nineteen of the twenty-three

Commanderies were represented. Four of the staff were absent from roll call.

The address is a short, sensible and well-written epitome of his administration. We find in it nothing of general interest, dealing, as it does, with local matters.

His decisions were sound and his dispensations proper.

We copy his "Conclusion":

As we meet here in our Annual Conclave, we are reminded that another year, with its opportunities and possibilities for doing good and for self-improvement, has passed away, and it is worthy of our serious reflection whether we have improved it as we might have done. Certainly these reflections suggest that there is something for us as Knights Templar to do. Times and conditions do not now require of us the physical exertion and privations of our predecessors, with their noble and valorous deeds; yet we cannot say, with our present advantages and opportunities, that less should be required of us, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without urging that from henceforth we all do more for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom on earth, and more to carry out the principles of our beloved Order. Let us endeavor to make our Order all that its title suggests and all that its teachings profess, and each in the struggle with his own weakness and temptations to come out more than conquerors, and in the strength of Christian manhood build characters that will be of benefit to mankind, and by our nobility of thought and kindly deeds make the world better for our having lived in it, and our beloved Order a source of inestimable good to our country, not for our own selfish pride and satisfaction, or even for the honor of our Order, but for the everlasting glory of the blessed Emanuel whose servants we are.

To all of which we say, *Amen!*

The proceedings were of local interest. The Order seems to be in a healthy state, although it has lost some flesh. Total membership, 1,655—a net loss of twenty-four!

R. E. Sir Wilton K. Williams is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder, same as before.

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#### NEW HAMPSHIRE—1897.

The Annual Conclave was held in the city of Concord, September 28th. Present: R. E. Sir John Hatch, Grand Commander; E. Sir George P. Cleaves, Grand Recorder; eleven Past Grand Commanders, one Past Grand Generalissimo, a lot of Past Commanders, twenty-two Grand Representatives (including Bro. Roberts for Mississippi), and delegates from seven Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a "strictly business" document, and is confined almost entirely to local matters. He says:

There has been a steady increase in the membership of our Commanderies, all of them having applications for the honors of knighthood, etc.

His official visitations were quite general, and, no doubt, resulted in good. He issued a lot of dispensations, most of them allowing his Subordinates to "pilgrimage" around the country with "music and banners," etc. He also allowed sundry Commanderies from adjacent, though foreign, States, to enter or pass through his bailiwick, as the case might be;

these people being also engaged in the "pilgrimage" business. Well, well! Can such a state of childish foolishness exist in this extremely practical age, and among people as sensible as are those of New England, and not excite our wonder!

We have had occasion to condemn this sort of thing in former reports, and have suggested that, when Concord desired to visit Bosting, that she simply put on a biled shirt, her cocked hat, her "trusty claymore" and baldrick, lock up the house, telegraph Boston to "kill the prodigal, as the calf is on the way home," mount the cars and go ahead! There is no use of all this fuss and feathers about "invading" and "pilgrimage" business, as all *that* amounts to is to make material from which the Grand Commanders can construct an address.

Four of his Subordinates were granted the privilege of being pious in uniform and swords.

Toughing the matter of *Invasion, etc.*, referred to above, he remarks:

The practice of asking permission of the Grand Commander of a neighboring Jurisdiction for a Commandery to enter or pass through his territory has, in some of the correspondence with my esteemed fratres of adjoining States, been criticised as a useless piece of red tape; but it is a formality which, if of no great value in itself, is certainly of no harm in this bustling age when acts of courtesy and politeness are apt to be forgotten. The custom is observed with scrupulous care by our fratres in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Courtesy and politeness amount to little unless their basis commends itself to our better judgment, which is not the case here.

He decides as follows on the stiff-leg question:

- 1st. Can a candidate who has a stiff leg receive the Temple degrees?
- 2d. If the application of said candidate has been received by the Commandery and referred to a committee, could it be withdrawn without action being taken if he was found ineligible on account of his deformity?

To which I replied that it is the duty of a committee, to whom a petition for the orders of knighthood has been referred, to inquire not only into the moral character of the applicant, but into his mental and physical qualifications as well. By title 48, section 1, of the Code of Statutes, 1889, the Commander and the members of the Commandery are made the judges of the petitioner's eligibility, and the subject comes properly and naturally before them upon the presentation of the committee's report. The candidate must be able to give all the signs, not only in the preceding degrees, but must be capable of giving those of the Commandery and of properly taking part in the requisite ceremonies. Section 2 of the same title lays down the rule that the Commandery should be more exacting in this respect than the Lodge or Chapter. The petitioner should be capable of enduring pilgrimage and warfare, and should not by his presence mar the symmetry of a parade. These qualifications, however, are matters of fact to be determined by the Commandery. Its action should be impartial, its scrutiny faithful; and, however harsh or unkind it may seem, the rules should be as firmly applied as in relation to other requisite qualifications. A duty is owed to the Commandery and to the Order at large to see that the candidates for knighthood are of due fitness. Many evils, as we regard them, exist in this world, the reasons for which we fail to understand. Some men suffering from natural deformity are, in a measure, deprived of the advantages and enjoyments granted to others, and this without our fault and beyond our power to remedy. They must bear their own heavy burdens alone until the Creator in His wisdom shows us the

reason for these things, and they are made perfect in a better world than ours.

In reply to the second question, notwithstanding the ordinary rule of Templar law, that a petition presented to a Commandery cannot be withdrawn, and that an unfavorable report does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot, in the case under consideration, should the Commandery find as a matter of fact that the petitioner was incapable of giving the signs or of passing through all the ceremonies of the Order, or that his presence would mar the symmetry of a parade, the petition should not be further acted upon. While the statute in question does not expressly provide that the petition in such a case may be dismissed, there are certain contingencies where the formality of a ballot would seem to be useless—"The reason and spirit of cases make law, not the letter of particular precedents," said Chief Justice Mansfield—this among the number. For instance, should it appear from the investigation of the committee that the petitioner was not a believer in the Christian religion; or where the report of the committee shows the petitioner has been rejected on a former petition within six months; or that the Commandery has no jurisdiction over the petitioner, a ballot would be entirely futile.

All this we steadfastly believe to be pure and unadulterated buncombe. That is, under the assumption that the aims and purposes of an Order the basis of which is the Christian religion, and the practice of the Christian virtues is to make men better morally and spiritually. If, however, the purpose of Templary is to dress a man in a fine, showy uniform, put a "trusty blade" in his hand and dress him up in line as a spectacle for a gaping crowd, it is the proper thing to see to it that his legs are all right, that he is free from stringhalt, does not "interfere"—*i. e.*, knock his shins together when he walks—and that he has the essentials for a dude: good clothes, good body and an empty pate. But if you are looking for what will reflect honor upon the Order, and convince the world that it really has a little of the excellence we claim for it, look at the qualities of head and heart possessed by your candidate; and, if God has laid His hand upon his body to the destruction of its symmetry and beauty, so that its presence on parade might detract, in a degree, from the grandeur of the show, it is barely possible that in the councils of the Order, and along those lines that give real lustre to the Institution, our brother with the game leg may stand at the head and be the recipient of honor and adulation, while your dress-parade dude drops to his proper place—the foot.

He decided that a foreigner could not apply for the Orders in this country. The question being a new one, the Law Committee asked to be allowed to report next year. We confess our inability to see any good reason for the exclusion of an applicant of this sort, who has resided the statutory time within the jurisdiction of the Commandery to which he applies.

The address is an able paper, but we have already devoted too much space to its consideration.

Proceedings local and routine. Total membership, 2,115—a gain of fifty-five. Treasury balance, \$1,063.34.

Correspondence, by our good Bro. Wait, covers 112 pages, considers most of the Templar pamphlets (not including ours, we regret to say), and

is, like its predecessors from the same distinguished source, able, comprehensive, thorough and interesting. We should like to draw very largely from this storehouse of Templar lore, but, as our space is limited, we content ourselves by clipping his "Conclusion":

The review we here present shows the Knightly Order in the enjoyment of a general condition of prosperity, and no question has newly arisen during the year tending to disturb its prevailing harmony. Rulings have been made in a few instances which have seemed to us to justify observation, and in these we have intimated the impressions which have occurred to our own mind, but in no case have they been such that difference of opinion appears to involve serious consequences to the Order in general. The one question of serious import, referred to in our report of last year, that relating to non-affiliation of Sir Knights in Lodge or Chapter, is still unsettled and a leading topic of discussion. Numerous writers, acknowledged to be among the most able and learned of the time, have expressed themselves upon this subject, and there appears such a general concurrence of opinion as to warrant the belief that a conclusion will ultimately be reached not only in accordance with the fundamental principles of Masonic knighthood, but such as will command the general assent.

R. E. John Hatch is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### NEW JERSEY—1898.

A Special Conclave was held in the city of Trenton, April 23d, for the purpose of bringing to trial six Sir Knights, on charges and specifications preferred by the Grand Captain-General, which trial resulted in the conviction and expulsion of two of the six, viz.: George W. Howell and Josiah Tici. The other four were acquitted. The minutes throw no light on the nature or enormity of the crimes committed by these brethren. We are sorry they forgot their manhood, knighthood and good name, and went astray.

The Fortieth Annual was also held in the city of Trenton, May 10th, R. E. Grand Commander John E. Rowe presiding; R. E. Charles Bechtel, Grand Recorder. All the Grand Officers were in their places. There were present also fourteen Past Grand Commanders, a lot of Past Commanders and representatives from fourteen Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is short and confined mostly to local matters.

He granted four dispensations, two of them allowing a couple of his Subordinates to dress up and "pilgrimage" over into Pennsylvania and to Long Island.

Appropriate mention is made of the fraternal dead.

The address is a good one—except the "pilgrimage" part of it. "Pilgrimages" are made to shrines and holy places, hence a fish-fry, a camp hunt or a picnic are *not* "pilgrimages." Call these things "jaunts," "outings" or "excursions," and give "pilgrimage" a rest!

Several of the Grand Officers made reports of inspections and visits (official) made by them.

The Grand Treasurer reports receipts and balance of \$2,685.32, and

disbursements of \$938.39, leaving a balance for current year of \$1,746.93.

The proceedings were routine, and devoid of general interest.

Total membership, 1,801—a gain of nineteen.

V. E. Sir Peter McGill is the author of an excellent report on Correspondence, in which he considers the doings of forty-one Templar Legislatures in his usual interesting and courteous style, Mississippi not in the list, which we regret.

Under Illinois, and touching the matter of perpetual jurisdiction, he sagely observes :

We are for modified perpetual jurisdiction, presuming always that the candidate's character, personal qualities or habits are the cause of his rejection, primarily. In case of removal from one jurisdiction to another, it is far better for our Order that some safeguard should be afforded those in his new home with whom he seeks to associate. We know a man often leaves his faults and shortcomings behind when he says "Good-bye" to his old associations that are too often, alas! his temptations. A period of probation that shows his determination and successful efforts to be a new man should be sufficient to show the Body that rejected him that reformation had taken place. Make it five years, or less if you will, but make it something. And to his third argument we give full and unqualified approval. If a Mason desires to withdraw and stay away from our society, let him go—quietly and peacefully. Let our good-will go with him as far as it can.

All of which we consider sound sense.

Under North Dakota we find these :

R. E. Sir W. T. Perkins' portrait adorns this volume. If nothing of general interest occurred during the business session of the Conclave, what happened during the postlude interests everybody. On Friday the Grand Commandery was taken to an Indian reservation, where five thousand "original Americans" were encamped. The effects of witnessing a "squaw dance" and a "grass dance" were such that—

"A number of the members of our Grand Commandery are old frontier men, who had hunted the buffalo, and, no doubt, in the past have had many an Indian scalp dangling at their belts, were so vividly reminded of old times that they leaped into the arena and kept time to the beating of the tom-toms, and gave vent to such blood-curdling yells that not a few of the Indians were scared from the ring.

"Indeed, it may be unwise to state that after the Grand Commandery had returned to the Chautauqua grounds, and had enjoyed an elegant repast furnished by the wives, etc., of members of Cyrene Commandery, they took the big bass-drum from the Indian band, which was near by, and formed themselves into a circle and began a series of gyrations that would outdo the most expert Indian dancer, letting forth war-whoops that startled every individual on the grounds, and astonished the members of the Indian band so that they left their instruments and fled to the Indian Agent, who had come with them, for protection."

This performance may be the reason for the look of uneasiness we fancied we discovered on the face of our worthy Frater Perkins. Just here a word to Frater Hedges: Go to North Dakota for recruits to strike terror to the hearts of the "unspeakable Turk" or the "oppressive Spaniard." A company of Knights Templar that could rout an Indian brass band would conquer the world.

We would like to have been there.

Under Oregon, and replying to Bro. Hodson's remarks in regard to the trial referred to above, we find this:

Reviewing our proceedings for 1897 he says:

"A Special Conclave was held May 4, 1897, to prefer and dispose of charges against the members of one of the Commanderies which had refused to obey the orders of the Grand Commandery. A committee was appointed to try the cause. They will proceed to take the evidence and report their findings at a Special Conclave to be called by the Grand Commander at his option. There must be something seriously wrong among Christian Knights who cannot come together and adjust their difficulties without this unseemly display. Somebody has knelt at the base of the triangle in vain."

We hardly know what Frater Hodson means by this criticism. What does he expect the Grand Commandery to do? What measure of forbearance must she show, and how long must she tolerate not *insubordination*, but open defiance and rebellion? We would refer our esteemed *frater* to our proceedings for 1896 for a detailed account of this very unfortunate case. And here we would say, in defense of our Grand Body, that this is not the first evidence of the spirit of rebellion in that particular Subordinate. Led by the sophistry of one man, whose energy and ability, if properly directed, would have placed him in the highest stations at the disposal of his confreres, but whose obstinacy has resulted in the complete destruction of himself and his followers, this unfortunate Commandery of Knights Templar has for over ten years been in opposition to the higher body. For ten years has patience and forbearance been yearly exercised, until, emboldened by continual and unpunished defiance, the matter culminated in open rebellion. The sovereignty of the Grand Body must be preserved. The record of 1896 shows that an appeal, for which there was absolutely no reason, was verified so the case might be brought to the notice of the Grand Encampment in 1895. Look in the proceedings of that date and see the impression it made on the committee; read their report, and then tell us if the difficulties can be adjusted without this "unseemly display." The master spirit that created the hell of Milton and Dante was the father of the one that has destroyed a promising Subordinate Commandery and led to a ten-years war.

Bro. McGill gets up an excellent report, but we have filled the space allotted to New Jersey, hence can indulge in no further clippings.

Sir William H. Sebring is Grand Commander; E. E. Sir Charles Bechtel is again Grand Recorder; Correspondent as before.

#### NEW YORK—1898.

The Eighty-fifth Annual was held in the city of Geneva, October 25th. There were present: R. E. Sir Arthur McArthur, Grand Commander; Sir John F. Shafer, Grand Recorder; all the other Grand Officers, eleven Past Grand Commanders, delegates from fifty-eight Subordinate Commanderies and a goodly array of Past Commanders.

Welcoming addresses and responses, eloquent and interesting, were made by the representative of the Mayor and the local Commandery immediately after the opening.

The Grand Commander opened his address as follows:

SIR KNIGHTS—In this Annual Conclave it is permissible, by the history-making events of the thirteen months that have glided away since the Sir Knights of this Empire State last met, to congratulate our-

selves that within our borders peace and prosperity have prevailed, and that the outcome of zeal and activity has redounded to our knightly welfare.

While stirring scenes around us have been elements to detract from the steady growth and prosperity that have, in years gone by, characterized our onward march, the welfare of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York has moved along paths made smooth by the diligent application of knightly principles.

In our contact with the world of Templarism without the confines of our jurisdiction, and in our intercourse among ourselves, naught save pleasant relations can be chronicled. While we thus have cause for congratulation, let us not forget that no rose, however sweet, is without its thorn; no life happy without its tears.

The chain of fellowship in the Grand Commandery has not been unbroken, and many in our sister Grand Jurisdictions have heard the last sound of the Warder's alarm that summons to the eternal resting place. Our sympathy and words of consolation are but the manifestations of the ties that unite us into one common bond of brotherhood.

Within the ranks of the Commanderies of this State the reaper has garnered his full share, and Sorrow's shadow darkens the pathway of life. Among the members of this Grand Commandery who have passed away, and to whose memory the Committee on Necrology will pay knightly tribute, are the following

Then follows a long list of the knightly dead of his own and other jurisdictions, to each of whom due tribute is paid in the Necrology report

He decided that Templars as individuals, (and he might have added as church members), have no right to appear on a public stage in Templar uniform for the benefit of a church society. He might, with perfect truth and propriety, have also added that a church that has to resort to such methods to raise money ought to die, and its members will go to h—l if they don't repent of their meanness!

We quote his 5th decision:

Q. Must the Sentinel be notified by the Commander, and must he be relieved from his station to vote on all matters coming before the Commandery other than petitions and election of officers, he being outside the room and paid for his services?

A. The Commander is not compelled to notify the Sentinel to come into the Commandery and vote as above unless the Sentinel requests the Commander so to do, as the Sentinel cannot by any act of the Commander or Commandery be deprived of his privilege to vote in all the proceedings of the Commandery if he so desires. But if he does not so request the Commander to notify him, it is not obligatory upon the Commander to notify him to come into the Commandery and vote. Such request to participate in the general business of the Commandery by the Sentinel would destroy his value as a Sentinel.

In which we do not concur. When the Sentinel accepts that office, and expects to be paid for his services, he voluntarily and for a consideration in shekels waives all such rights, and has no right to demand them at the hands of the Eminent Commander or Commandery. If allowed to come in and vote, he does so by courtesy and not by right.

He issued quite a lot of dispensations, half a dozen or more being for conspicuous piety. He also allowed a Commandery from Bosting "to enter the jurisdiction of New York in full Templar regalia, and with



banners," etc. This is risky business, and should be discouraged.

He visited around galore, and had a "good time." The address, as a whole, is a really good one.

Proceedings mostly routine and local. The Grand Recorder's report shows that 808 Templars were made during the year, 66 affiliated and 128 dimitted, nearly two to one; 67 were reinstated, and 332 were dropped for non-payment of dues, nearly five to one, but the net gain was 294. It also shows that from 1895 to 1898—four years—3,152 were dubbed, 243 affiliated and 228 reinstated, being a total gain of 3,625—439 dimitted, 8 dropped, 1,208 dropped for non-payment of dues, 12 were suspended, 16 were expelled and 660 died, making a total loss for the term of 1,870. Net gain for four years, 1,282. Nine hundred and eighty were ousted for non-payment of dues, while the losses from all other causes were only 890, or 90 less than the other.

Two Commanderies reported over 500 members, five reported over 400, five over 300, ten over 200, twenty-four over 100, and only twelve out of the fifty-eight Commanderies reported less than 100 members. Fees and dues were paid in to the Grand Treasurer to the amount of \$7,305.00. All of which looks ponderous alongside of our membership, etc., of less than 500 in the whole State. However, if we are little we are loud, and shall, D. V., continue business at the same old stand, hoping to grow larger as the years pass.

Grand Treasurer's report shows balance from last added to this year's receipts amount to \$17,463.19, from which disbursements amounting to \$9,307.76 left a balance of only \$8,155.43, while it was \$10,101.11 last year.

The report on Necrology is by the Rev. Bro. Twing, covers seventeen pages, and is an elegant and eloquent tribute to the memory and merit of the magnanimous dead. The extended space occupied in the report indicates the length of the "death roll."

They pay their Grand Recorder a salary of \$1,500, Grand Treasurer \$400, and Committee on Necrology \$100. So you will perceive that they are still ahead of us, even in salaries.

The Law Committee, unlike some others, did not sit on and crush the R. E., but, on the contrary, approved his decisions.

Nineteen Grand Representatives were present, including Bro. John Anderson for Mississippi. Two more took the trouble to send "letters of regret." The "staff" made full reports of inspections made by them.

Our good brother, Past Grand Commander Anthony, presents the "Outlook" report, in which he digests the minutes of forty-four Templar Legislatures in his usual entertaining, courteous and able style, Mississippi not included.

Under Alabama, and referring to the very questionable (from a sensible standpoint) proceeding in regard to the presentation to the Grand Commandery by the Grand Commander of his first born son and its adoption by the Body, he says:

A novel ceremony occurred in the adoption of the son (eight months old) of the Grand Commander as the child of the Commandery. The sentiment connected therewith is pleasing.

We beg to dissent from the proposition that any sentiment is pleasing when coupled with and made a part of a proceeding so utterly at variance with common, horse sense, as was the episode under consideration. We hope this disease will not spread.

Following are the totals of his complete statistical tables :

|                                                                |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Lodge membership in United States.....                         | 778,508       |
| —in British Provinces .....                                    | 36,510        |
|                                                                | <hr/> 815,018 |
| Chapter membership in United States.....                       | 204,005       |
| —in British Provinces ..                                       | 6,758         |
|                                                                | <hr/> 210,763 |
| Commandery membership in United States. ....                   | 116,173       |
| —in Territories and recent possessions....                     | 1,363         |
|                                                                | <hr/> 117,536 |
| Increase in Templar membership from 1895 to 1898.....          | 11,510        |
| Massachusetts and Rhode Island has the largest membership .... | 12,313        |
| Pennsylvania (April 30, 1898).....                             | 11,969        |
| New York (May 30, 1897). ....                                  | 11,376        |
| Illinois.....                                                  | 9,506         |
| Ohio.....                                                      | 8,263         |
| Michigan.....                                                  | 5,635         |
| Iowa.....                                                      | 4,470         |
| Missouri.....                                                  | 4,311         |
| Indiana.....                                                   | 3,569         |
| Kansas.....                                                    | 3,247         |

R. E. George E. Nicholson is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Reporter as before.

#### NORTH CAROLINA—1898.

The Eighteenth Annual was held in the city of Raleigh, May 18th. Present : R. E. Joseph H. Hackburn, Grand Commander ; E. Horace H. Munson, Grand Recorder ; five Past Grand Commanders, one Past Deputy Grand Commander, one Past Grand Generalissimo, seventeen Grand Representatives, including Bro. Willard for Mississippi, and delegates from eleven Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is a short *resume* of his official acts and deliverances. He pays just tribute to the memory and worth of the knightly dead, both of his own and sister jurisdictions. He issued quite a lot of dispensations, but all for proper objects. He made several visits to his Subordinates, doubtless with good results.

Owing to a depleted treasury, he suggests that North Carolina's Representatives will have to pay their own expenses, and remarks that he does not consider that it will be a hardship to do this, "for surely the privilege of fraternizing with such a body of men is well worth the money it will cost." We regret our inability to see it by "doze lamps."

He regrets his "inability to report a large increase in our membership." This is not always a matter of regret, because in a multitude there

are always a lot of dress-parade—Triennial—drones, who are fit for nothing except Templar dudes. These are the fellows who refuse to attend the Conclaves of their own Commandery and thus prevent a quorum, as in the case of Nos. 9 and 11, of the dormant and derelict condition of which our good brother complains.

The Deputy Grand Commander also reported visitations made by him to two Commanderies, in each of which a banquet was spread and enjoyed.

The proceedings contain nothing special of interest to outsiders.

Total membership, 362—a gain of thirteen.

The Correspondence report is the fourth from the hand and brain of our good Bro. Chase, and, like the other three, is first-class, such as becomes a son of the "Old North State." It covers 132 pages and digests the doings of most of the Templar family of Grands, among the rest ours for 1897.

Reviewing the address of Grand Commander Ward, of California, he says:

He is a firm believer in their law requiring affiliation in Lodge and Chapter as a requisite to good standing in the Commandery, and desires that their Representatives to the next Grand Encampment use their efforts to have the conflicting laws of the Grand Encampment repealed. Without touching upon the merits of the question, we think that the easiest and probably the only sure way to bring about an agreement in the conflicting laws would be to amend their own, for the Grand Encampment is a powerfully hard body to move.

We beg to demur to the remedy prescribed by Bro. Chase. We hope the day will never come when a Grand Lodge of Master Masons will amend its laws to conform to the enactments of the Grand Encampment or any other so-called higher body. We are well aware that the Grand Encampment is a powerfully hard body to move, and it is only natural that it should be so. Solomon said, "A fool is wiser, in his own conceit, than seven men that can render a reason!" He probably had this stubborn body in mind when he voiced the sentiment quoted.

Under Georgia we find this:

A crumb of comfort for ye hard-working and often poorly-paid Correspondent is found when we read that Bro. Hall's report was accepted with thanks, and that he was requested to continue in the great and glorious work of disseminating Templar information among the Sir Knights, and further on we note that an even hundred dollars was appropriated for his benefit. Truly, the lot of some Correspondents is cast in pleasant places.

They doubled the salary of Bro. Hall this year, paying him \$200.00, and his reports are no better than those of Chase and DeLap!

Bro. Chase gives Mississippi for 1897 three pages of pleasant notice. The motion you quote had reference to the Grand Captain of the Guard and not to the Grand Captain-General, being a misprint. He has some nice words for this committee, and invites us to come to Pittsburg and get acquainted with the gang of Mutuals. While we would be glad to meet our brethren, we dislike a crowd too much to go.

Men who weigh 200 pounds don't often suffer from dyspepsia! What makes you think we have it, Bro. Chase?

Our brother gets up a most excellent report, and he knows it as well as we do.

Mumford D. Bailey is Grand Commander ; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

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OHIO—1898.

The Fifty-sixth Annual was held in the city of Springfield, September 14th. Present: R. E. Sir Robert V. Hampson, Grand Commander ; E. Sir John N. Bell, Grand Recorder ; all the other Grand Officers except Captain of Guard, eleven Past Grand Commanders, twenty Grand Representatives, a big lot of Past Commanders, and delegates from fifty-six Subordinate Commanderies—ALL !

The address of the R. E. is a good business document, confined in its references mostly to local matters. Much space is taken in paying proper tribute to the memory and worth of the knightly dead of the country.

His visitations in person and by inspecting officers were quite general and extensive, and developed a high grade of prosperity of the Order in the Buckeye State. He authorized all his Subordinates to be religious in Templar uniforms on the usual days on which this sort of godliness assumes control. He issued a multitude of dispensations, but all for proper purposes, including one to allow a Subordinate Commandery to act as escort to a regiment of artillery when it started for the war.

An excellent picture of the R. E. is the frontispiece of the pamphlet.

We clip from Grand Secretary Bell's report :

In order to obtain and preserve a more complete and comprehensive knowledge of the condition of our Commanderies, financially and otherwise, than has heretofore been possible through reports of inspecting officers, your Grand Recorder has added a page to the returns, requiring statistics to be furnished as to uniforms, conclaves, attendance, dues, fees, assets, liabilities, insurance, etc., a synopsis of which is embodied in this report. These statistics will, I believe, prove valuable in many ways, although in a very few instances full reports on all items were not furnished by the Recorders.

The large falling off in membership, on account of dropping from the rolls for non-payment of dues, continues ; no less than 234 Sir Knights having joined the army of non-affiliates, through this cause, during the past Templar year, being the largest number dropped in any one year since the organization of the Grand Commandery, and only sixty-six have been reinstated—a net loss of 168. During the past twelve years no less than 1,543 Sir Knights have been dropped from the rolls of our Commanderies for non-payment of dues, and only 601 reinstated ; a net loss in membership of 942 from this cause alone—a larger number than the entire membership of many of the Grand Jurisdictions. I am still of the opinion, as expressed in former reports, that a great proportion of this loss can be avoided by proper efforts on the part of the officers of the Commanderies, and by the application of good ordinary business methods in conducting their financial affairs.

From which you will see how they do things in these imperial bailiwicks, and that some people in every State are too mean or too poor to

pay their dues, and are dropped from the rolls for that cause. We think Bro. Bell's extra page to Commandery returns, on which to enter these statistics, is an excellent idea and should be generally adopted.

We copy from the record :

The Grand Recorder read a communication from R. E. Sir Knight Enoch T. Carson, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, stating that, owing to severe and protracted illness, he had been unable to complete his report or to be present at this Conclave, and courteously requesting that permission be granted to finish his report and submit same to the R. E. Grand Commander, and, when approved by him, that it be published in the proceedings of this Conclave; or, if too long a time shall elapse before its completion, that the Grand Recorder be authorized to publish the report under separate cover.

On motion, unanimous consent was given in accordance with the foregoing request, and the Grand Recorder instructed to convey to R. E. Sir Carson the fraternal sympathy and condolences of the members of this Grand Body, with their hopes for his speedy restoration to health.

We note with pleasure that Bro. Carson was able to finish his allotted task, and that his admirable report is a part of the pamphlet under review.

The Board of Trustees of the Ohio Masonic Home presented their report for the fiscal year ending July 31st, 1898. The report shows that there has been collected for this charity—all told—\$191,736.84; receipts during the year, \$17,007.45; paid out same time, \$19,425 07; showing excess of expenditures of \$1,480.30. Two thousand six hundred and ninety-five dollars were spent for betterments of the main building, \$459 for "betterments of grounds," \$575 for "betterments farm and barn," and for "maintenance," \$15,693.73!! The Home has seventy-seven inmates, and if it costs \$15 000 a year to run a Home with seven-seven inmates, it will take \$20,000 per annum for 100 inmates, and so on. We commend these figures to our good Bro. Barkley, and suggest that making haste slowly is about the best thing to do.

The amounts contributed by Grand Bodies for current year follows : Grand Lodge, \$43,214.01; Grand Chapter, \$31,862.25; Grand Council, \$2,000.00; Grand Commandery, \$7,500.00; total, \$84,576.26.

This being less than half the total receipts of the Home, we presume the rest was contributed by Subordinate Lodges, Chapters, Councils and Commanderies. We shall add some thoughts in regard to this matter in our "Conclusion."

Our good Bro. Carson's report, while not so long as his former reports—most of them—still there is no lack of excellence in the character of the work as a literary production. Forty-one Templar Grands pass in review before him, and each receives its quota of consideration and courteous attention, Mississippi for 1897 among the number.

Under Oregon Bro. Enoch pays his respects to Correspondent Hodson, and reproduces some of this *assfoot* author's remarks about Bro. Carson and this scribe. Fortunately for Hodson, his fulmination of 1894 escaped our notice at that time, or he would have heard from us; but we are older now, and have quit shooting snipe with our ten-inch Columbiad. It takes

too much powder to load it to justify us in blazing away with it, when a squirt-gun will do as well. Our Bro. Enoch evidently considers Hodson an ass, and seems to be provoked at him because he is so, which we regret. Nature gave Hodson too big a start as an ass to justify us in being dismantled because cultivation and constant effort have produced in him a perfect specimen of the genus ass! Let him alone; he can't help being what he is.

We would be glad to copy Bro. Carson's "Conclusion," as it is very interesting; but our space for Ohio is very full. May God bless him and prolong his life and usefulness.

Sir Stephen P. Sands is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### OKLAHOMA—1898.

The Third Annual was held in Oklahoma City, May 10th. Present: R. E. DeForest DeFrancis Leach, Grand Commander; E. Sir H. S. Cunningham, Grand Recorder, and representatives from four Subordinate Commanderies. At least half of the Grand Officers were absent.

The Grand Commander's address is the shortest on record—about fifty lines; but, as he had little to communicate, he acted sensibly in not "multiplying words without knowledge." The proceedings were very short and routine.

The "Committee on Fraternal Correspondence" consists of three members. Its report occupies five lines, exclusive of the doxology and signatures, which take four lines. In it they say they did not "*edit a chapter*" on Fraternal Correspondence, for the reason that the body was too poor to pay for the piper. We are grateful for the suggestion of a new name for this work, found in the words italicized above. It sounds both literary and lofty.

The Grand Recorder reported twenty-two knighted and one admitted, and says the total gain was *eighteen*! He then says three dimitted and one was suspended, and makes the total loss 0! Another instance where new Mathew-Mattocks is in evidence. Total membership, 145.

R. E. Otto Albert Shuttel is Grand Commander, and his portrait adorns the pamphlet. Grand Recorder continued.

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#### OREGON—1898.

The Twelfth Annual was held in the city of Salem, September 22d. There were present: R. E. Sir L. C. Marshall, Grand Commander; E. Sir James F. Robinson, Grand Recorder; all the balance of the staff, four Past Grand Commanders, one Past Grand Captain-General, sixteen Past Commanders, twenty-one Grand Representatives and delegates from six Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is a short but well-written *resume* of his administration. He opens as follows:

SIR KNIGHTS—Again another milestone has been reached in our

earthly pilgrimage, another bright oasis has been found in the great desert of human life over which we are all passing, and to-day the happiest event of my life has come to me—that of welcoming my beloved fraters to our Twelfth Annual Conclave. I trust that our lives have been in accordance with the teachings of our “Prince Emanuel,” and that we come with clean hands and pure hearts, and with renewed zeal in the prosecution of the work delegated to us by virtue of our high and holy calling. Let us lay aside every unkind thought and every evil passion, and let us feel that we are in deed and in truth true soldiers to the cross, having for our life work the good of humanity and the uplifting of the downtrodden and oppressed, and the general welfare of the community in which we live.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the knightly dead, of his own and other jurisdictions.

We find nothing further of general interest in the address. The whole minutes cover less than fifteen pages, and contain nothing startling or unique. Total membership, 399—a gain of one; which is that much better than a loss. Sixty-three pages of the pamphlet contain the Correspondence report, which is the work of Past Grand Commander J. M. Hodson, and in which he considers the minutes of most of the Templar-governing bodies, *not* including Mississippi.

We note that in his review of Ohio he entirely ignores the existence and work of that Nestor among the Mutuals, and intellectual and learned giant among the master minds of Masonry and Templary, Past Grand Commander Enoch T. Carson!! As our old and venerable friend is in failing health, we fear this crushing blow from so eminent a source may somewhat disturb his digestion; but we hope he will pull through. We have had several little bouts with Bro. Enoch ourself, but we never were fool enough to get mad because he didn't see with our eyes and used Rabelais' style in expressing his opinions. If Bro. Hodson or we had half the sense and learning of Bro. Enoch T., we would know twice as much as we do now.

We excerpt from his “Conclusion”:

Several of the Correspondents are very sure they know just exactly what is required to constitute “the Templar creed,” and are sure to name some pet dogma. We quote a specimen brick from DeLap of Mississippi:

“The smallest allowance of common sense and the most superficial knowledge of the Christian religion should convince any sane man that the doctrine of the “Trinity” is as much a part of Christian belief as is the atonement made by our Savior, hence we cannot see the use of discussing the matter.”

The great trouble with most who approach this subject is that they are not mentally and spiritually built on lines broad enough to comprehend the fact that the signed written statement, “I am a firm believer in the Christian religion,” embraces not only their pet dogma, but many others of equal or more importance. They are of the same class of minds who declare that Masonry is not religion, simply because it does not announce that “baptism,” or some other ceremonial sacrament, is essential to salvation. Yet, if they know enough to have an opinion, they realize that to rob Masonry of its subjective forces, certainly religious, which prompt the feelings and acts of men with relation to Deity and to each other, it could not survive.

The interpretation of which is, that all of the “several Correspon-

dents" are a pack of fools and know nothing, while Hodson is the modern Solomon and knows it all! Hodson does have lucid intervals in which the swelling in his head subsides, but he evidently had a fit on him when he wrote the above! We always pity a man who plays the ass unconsciously. Sometimes the failing is natural—sometimes acquired.

R. E. Sir John B. Cleland is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporter as before.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA—1898.

The Fifteenth Annual was held in the city of Sioux Falls, June 17th. Present: R. E. Sir Joseph T. Morrow, Grand Commander; E. Sir George A. Pettigrew, Grand Recorder; all the other Grand Officers except the Grand Sword Bearer, five Past Grand Commanders, a lot of Past Eminent Commanders and representatives from ten Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is short, but interesting. We excerpt from his opening:

As we meet in Annual Conclave, greeting and welcoming each other, here and there familiar faces are missed; our thoughts instinctively turn to the absent brothers and the terrible occasion of their absence.

During the year, after a generation of profound peace, our beloved country, in its benevolent efforts as a good neighbor to save an oppressed and perishing people, became involved in a war with one of the oldest European nations.

Our absent ones today, in a foreign land or on our ships of war, with unquenchable patriotism and indomitable courage, are periling their lives for the sake of their country and the honor of the emblem of our country.

The United States presents to-day a most interesting spectacle: A nation in the process of absorption, consuming so many races of people that it shows phenomenal powers of absorption. This process is distinguished from all others in history in the part played by common schools, by science and invention.

Spain, fashioned in feudalism, has been unable to divest herself of old superstitions; powerless to create inventors, and unwilling to profit by the scientific discoveries of others, she has failed to maintain the national strength incident to the progress of the nineteenth century, so we find the American guns superior to those of Spain; and the American tars behind them are invincible by the force of moral heroism.

The activity of American life, stimulated by electricity; the development of railroads, the general substitution of machinery for human power, and the evolving of the best and most ingenious mechanics in the world made it easy and quick work to float invincible fleets and equip conquering armies. While these conditions are common to all nations, they have never before played so important a part in any national development.

Thus, while the attention of the world is called to this nation, our prayers ascend for victory to her flag of freedom and safety for the fraters who fight under it on land and on sea. Heaven preserve them and return them to us after they have valiantly contributed to the success of our country's arms.

In all of which we concur. There can be no doubt of the capacity of



our country to absorb things, nor is there any, in the minds of her *patriotic* citizens, as to the propriety of taking in and keeping in all that we have won, and we are glad to see that such is the policy of our government. Nobody but an unpatriotic ass would favor the idea of relinquishing a solitary rod of it; in fact, we ought to take every foot of land Spain has outside of the peninsula.

His dispensations were few and for proper purposes. He visited half a dozen of his Subordinates, and reports that peace and harmony prevail, and that substantial growth in numbers is the result for the year. His portrait makes an elegant frontispiece for the pamphlet.

The proceedings were routine and of local interest. The report of the Committee on Correspondence was *adopted*, which is something out of the usual order of procedure. The finances are in a healthy condition. Total membership, 751—a loss of four.

Our Uncle Samuel Jumper is the architect of the Correspondence report, which is a good one, of course. It covers the major part of the pamphlet—eighty-five pages—and passes upon the transactions of forty-two Templar Legislatures, Mississippi not included.

We clip his "opening chorus":

We commence our third annual report in the spring-time. The good earth, winter-bound with ices and snows, relaxes under the warm glow of the higher sun, freeing the tiny blade of grass, the delicate violet and the early flowers from their winter prisons, forerunners of the grandeur that is to come with the summer months. At home and abroad the mutterings of war are stirring the passions of men to such an extent that, ere we complete our report, the conflict will be upon us.

Complications unthought of and undreamed of now may arise, and the Christian Knight be called to wield his sword in the cause to which he has so solemnly dedicated it. Already the shadow of the Italian hand is seen. Let us have our swords and bucklers ready.

"The Italian hand" has done its best, but, so far, without flattering results to itself. The time has passed when the Vatican was a potent factor in the affairs of the nations, and it is not likely to play much of a hand in the future, only, though, because it cannot.

Reviewing Iowa Correspondent's report, he says:

Bro. Cox is opposed to the custom of wine-drinking in connection with the Christmas observance. He thinks it neither creditable to the Christian religion nor honoring to the Grand Master to make the occasion one of ministering to self-indulgence which may have in it measureless peril for some brave Knight who is making an heroic fight against appetite, and needs help rather than sore temptation in his manly struggle. He says:

"If the Christmas toast can only be fittingly observed by the use of wine, it were more honorable in the breach than in the observance."

Would it not be well for all of us to halt for a moment and weigh well the influence? We have always upheld the custom, but if its practice has caused a single heartache in the family of one Sir Knight, then by all means let it be stopped. Would it not be well for the "Guild" to take the subject up for discussion in the Correspondence? Much good may come of it.

Would it not be better to not only halt, but stay halted along this

line? A *Christian* gentleman has no use for intoxicants, either in the asylum or his stomach; hence, if any one insists on drinking the Christmas toast in wine, or any other fluid containing alcohol, you can bet your last shekel that, gentleman though he may be, he is *not* a *Christian*. For a sincere follower of our Lord to take that into his stomach on our Christ's natal day which, if taken in excess, would steal away his sense and reduce him to the level of the brute, is an absurdity on its face. We have been preaching against the presence of alcoholic drinks at Templar and Masonic gatherings of any kind for lo! these many years, and shall continue the fight until the Master calls us to that "upper and better country," where there are no drunkards' graves; no drunkards' homes, with abused wife and ragged and starving children; where there are no prisons nor police courts, with men made in the image of God and superior to the angels, as being the beneficiaries of the "Plan of Salvation," standing at their bar for judgment and punishment for having, in consequence of over-indulgence in this accursed stuff, made themselves amenable to the law! There is nothing in heaven that resembles, in the least degree, the liquid damnation so popular in the world in our day. "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth."

R. E. Sir William T. Doolittle is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

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#### TEXAS—1898.

The Forty-fifth Annual was held at Dallas, April 13. R. E. Sir L. T. Noyes, Grand Commander; E. Sir J. C. Kidd, Grand Recorder. The entire staff were present; also eight Past Grand Commanders and delegates from twenty-two Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander is quite lengthy, much space being devoted to Necrology and special orders in regard to deceased brethren, who were, in life, distinguished above their fellows.

He says the increase in membership is not so great as in some years, but is gratifyingly large.

He issued a multitude of dispensations, but all were for proper purposes.

The R. E. adopted the unfortunate habit of copying all the correspondence incident to his administration, which makes it hard on us fellows to get at the gist of things. He devotes two pages to a report of his decision in a case like this: A. is a member of San Antonio Chapter, and has been for twenty years, and for that reason supposes *that* to be his Masonic home, although born and raised in Richmond and having lived there for the past three years. Under this supposition, he sends his petition and the \$50 fee to the Commandery in San Antonio; requests that Commandery, if it elects him, to request No. 13, of Richmond, to confer the Orders. San Antonio did not reply to his letter as promptly as the Recorder should have done, so the companion puts his petition into No. 13, of Richmond (where it belonged), was elected and received the

Orders. He then asked for the return of his ducats, which the R. E. ordered to be done.

He also decided that, where there is but one candidate for office, that it is illegal for the Recorder (or any *one* else) to cast the vote of the Commandery, and cites title xx, section 1, Code of Statutes: "All elections must be by ballot." Of course, the decision is wrong, and it is perfectly competent for the Commandery to designate, unanimously, some one to cast one vote for all, which is as much a "vote by ballot" as though every member, including the Sentinel, had personally deposited his ballot. In our opinion the matter is one with which neither the Grand Encampment, or its Code, has anything at all to do.

He is a firm believer in Templar holy days, and attendance on divine service in uniform by the Commanderies. We regret our inability to concur.

He made quite a round of visitations, and had a good time.

We clip the following as of interest to all of us :

While much has been said in the Grand Lodge regarding non-affiliates, our Grand Commanderies are silent upon the subject. I have endeavored, while inspecting the Subordinate Commanderies, to ascertain the number of Sir Knights in arrears, and to impress upon the Recorders the necessity for special attention to such delinquents.

I am fully assured that the majority of suspensions for non-payment of dues is the result of inattention upon the part of Recorders. The practice of postponing the collections until the amounts become large is a grievous error. Small amounts at shorter intervals are more convenient to the Sir Knights, and are collected with less trouble. The custom of one Commandery in this Jurisdiction is an object lesson on this particular point. It is the custom of this Recorder to prepare his quarterly receipts and call upon each member of his Commandery in person, and his books show, almost without exception, the Sir Knights have paid their dues promptly when so called upon.

I call your attention to these facts, not with a view of criticism, but with the earnest hope that this plain statement will serve in a measure to arrest the drain upon our membership.

In the years from '94 to '97 the accessions from all sources, creation, affiliation and reinstatement, amounted to 829, while the drain by dimission, suspension, expulsion and death was 609, making the net gain only 220!

The address covers fifty pages, and is an exhaustive *resume* of his official acts and deliverances.

Proceedings voluminous, but mostly routine and local. The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$2,230.74, distributed as follows: General fund, \$730.74; *grand Triennial* fund, \$1,500. What a waste of wax!

The Triennial Committee reported that one of its members had visited Pittsburg in August, 1897. for the purpose of securing quarters for the Texans; that, after hunting all over town, they struck the "*Hotel Henry*," (probably named for Henry VIII., who did things with a big auger or not at all). The prices asked by this concern were exceedingly modest, being as follows: \$4 per day for rooms (European plan) *for each person*, and "we to guarantee not less than 100 persons; and for a large

parlor and reception room they wanted the sum of \$200 per day." "They wanted a guarantee, also, to cover five days." The committee informed the Hotel Henry people that they did not wish to buy their property, etc., and left for home. Subsequently the committee, by correspondence, secured accommodations for forty persons at \$30 per day, and \$25 a day for parlor

"This is the only reasonable arrangement in regard to price that we have seen yet. Taking the Hotel Henry as a sample of the grasping greed of the vast majority of the entertaining class in Pittsburg, we are forced to the conclusion that our large cities, which aspire to entertain the Grand Encampment, are actuated by the single desire to rob its members and visitors from the day they arrive until they depart. How much better it would be for the central concern, if it must be continued, to go off by itself, like Iowa does, to her Spirit Lake, transact its business and have a good, social time together, than submit to be robbed every three years by enjoying the *hospitality* of our large cities at \$10 a day!

Bro. Robert M. Elgin is the author of the Correspondence report, which covers eighty-eight pages, and considers the transactions of most of the Templar Grands in his usual interesting and courteous style. Mississippi, we regret to say, was absent from roll call.

Under Ohio we find this, in reference to our old friend and brother, Carson:

The Report on Correspondence is again from the pen of Sir Enoch T. Carson, Past Grand Commander. This is his twenty-second report, and crowns him as the next oldest member of the Guild. Sir Knight Montgomery, of Kentucky, he says, is one year his senior. Sir Knight Carson was prevented from attending the Grand Conclave by ill health, having been confined to the house most of the time for the previous six months. He sent a note expressing his regrets, and the Grand Commandery telegraphed its regrets and sympathy. We rejoice to know he so far recovered as to complete his report, and we hope his health has been entirely restored. There are few reports that we enjoy more than his, and there are not many whom we like better to agree with. We have great respect for his opinion on all questions of Templar polity. Though we often disagree, our discussions have always been pleasant.

He was not present, as we stated, when his Grand Commandery adopted the "Mississippi resolutions," proposing to change the organic law of the Grand Encampment, divest it of most of its powers and model it after that of the General Grand Chapter. He lets us know, however, pretty well where he stands on the question. Under the head of Arkansas, after quoting a like resolution, he says:

"The organic law of the General Grand Chapter is a great big nothing. Follow it, and in a few years the Grand Encampment would be as maulding as the General Grand Chapter.

"About the best thing that can be said of it is what the old woman said of her medicine: 'If it does no good, it can do no harm.'"

When Sir Knight Carson once advocates a measure he sticks to it to the end.

Mr. Elgin's report is an excellent one, but we have no more space for the "Lone Star State."

Sir A. A. Johnson is Grand Commander (Dallas); Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

## VERMONT—1898.

The Fifty-Sixth Annual was held in the city of Burlington, June 14th. There were in attendance: All the Grand Officers, with R. E. Robt. J. Wright, Grand Commander, presiding. E. Sir W. G. Reynolds, Grand Recorder, eight Grand Commanders, six other Past Grand Officers, twenty eight Grand Representatives and delegates from eleven Sub. Commanderies.

The address is a business paper, and treats of matters of local interest only. Proper tribute is paid to the memory and merit of the knightly dead both of his own and sister jurisdictions.

From the report of Deputy Grand Commander Nicholson, as an inspecting officer, we clip the following:

On December 25th, at the Christmas observance, there were about fifty Sir Knights who met at the Asylum and participated in the following sentiments:

The Most Eminent Grand Master, W. LaRue Thomas.

To the Grand Commander, officers and members of the Grand Commandery of Vermont:

"Killington sends you Christmas greetings and good cheer, and renews the pledge of love and loyalty for the New Year."

To our Sister Commanderies of the Green Mountain State.

To Washington Commandery, Saratoga Springs, New York.

To Forest Commandery, Cleveland, Ohio.

To South Shore Commandery, East Weymouth, Mass.

To our Past Eminent Commanders.

The dead.

The absent.

The present.

To the members of Old Killington,

To our Eminent Commander.

To our fathers, mothers, sisters, wives, brothers, (and to some) children and sweet-hearts.

A general toast offered by Past Eminent Commander W. F. Lewis, embracing everybody, not omitting the Recorder, was given by Sir T. H. Chapman.

"Here's to the tears of friendship, and may they crystalize as the fall, and be warm in memory of those we love."

I give toast to our present Eminent Commander and Recorder.

The "short-hand" toasts taken in the temporary absence of the Recorder could not be translated, hence omitted.

The wind-up was given by the Recorder, praying for forgiveness. Sir Knights, the following is offered in self-defense:

"We have drank sentiments generally to the members of our Order, Let's take one drink more, and in kindness forgive the Recorder."

Fine Catawba wine *very old*, was used, and a fine lunch and cigars were served in an adjoining room.

Only a casual glance at the toasts named above develops the conviction in our mind that the "fine Catawba" must have been "*very old*"—old enough, in fact, to tangle the legs and muddle the noddles of these

*alleged* soldiers of the Cross of Christ. A beautiful way for Christian (?) gentlemen to celebrate the Natal Day of the author of their redemption.

The one "To the tears of friendship" etc., was evidently from a brain befuddled by alcohol, as the sentiment lacks the element of practical common sense and its inspiration sprang from a desire to take *another* drink!

His dispensations were along the usual lines in this jurisdiction, allowing his subordinates to act as escorts to G. A. Posts, veterans or any thing else they might take a notion to do. He also continues the "Invading" and "Pilgrimage" business "at the old stand!" It will be a glad day when the G. A. Posts and veterans of that Bailiwick get sufficient courage to travel a few squares without an *escort*, especially an escort made up of *carpet* knights who are more dangerous to their file leader than to a foe *in battle*!

The proceedings were routine and local. Finances in a healthy state. Total membership, 1,600—a gain of 101.

Ninety-five pages of the pamphlet are occupied by our good Bro. Haskins' excellent report on Correspondence, in which he digests the minutes of forty-two Templar Grauds, Mississippi for 1897 getting three pages of courteous consideration. Under Alabama we find this:

We recognize the fact that the effect of business depression which develops a condition of uncertainty is the same everywhere, and is an absolute hindrance to the growth and material prosperity of Masonry. Yet, up here in Vermont, we never allow ourselves to become unduly excited over politics to the neglect of business, or our duty to the Order we so well love. We sometimes indulge in two or three local rallies, listen to arguments advanced *pro et con*, and then go and vote as we please with none to molest or make us afraid. With more than 112,000 loyal Sir Knights in the United States—every one a true American,—the country will never go to the "bow-wows," no matter what political party succeeds. So, my dear Frater, don't suffer yourself or the Sir Knights of old Alabama to become "torn" by means of political strife. It won't pay, in the long run. We are a united people and stand shoulder to shoulder to defend our country against the enemy, with Spain thrown in.

All of which is sound sense and to the point. The Lord of Hosts is looking after the interests of this country, and will continue to do so until our sins, personal and national, separate between us and Him.

Under Michigan these:

There is no better authority than Sirs Carson and Gerow as to the true meaning and interpretation of the teachings and doctrine contained in our Templar Ritual. Some of our Reverend Frates, and others, may confess themselves agnostics with reference to the divinity of Him whom we recognize as the Great Captain of our Salvation, of His resurrection and glorious ascension, and preach as they please in their own pulpits, but in the Asylum of Knights Templar doubts and unbelief upon this subject are not tolerated.

We concur all along the line.

Bro. Haskins' attention to Mississippi at Biloxi is full and fraternal. He copies liberally from Bro. Buchanan's address, Bro. Jones' sermon, the minutes and our report. He remarks of our Fred's Grand Encamp-

ment resolutions that, in his opinion, they will not meet with much favor. And they haven't. More's the pity! He says of this committee:

He does not always approve of that which we are pleased to do in Vermont, but we feel that his criticisms, if not deserved, are written in the spirit of fraternity and charity.

You are eminently correct, Bro. Kittredge. There is never a trace of malice or unkindness in our heart towards our brethren of Vermont or anywhere else. Regarding our strictures of their Memorial Day parades, he says:

And then he enters his objection to the report of our Committee on Jurisprudence for giving their approval to the act of the Grand Commander, insisting that the day was neither a Masonic or Templar occasion.

We have discussed this question fully in former reports and have no desire to "thresh over old straw," and, therefore, shall have no contention with our distinguished Frater on that subject. But he will agree with us in this proposition, viz.: That aside from the fact that the receiving of the degrees in Lodge and Chapter are made pre-requisite to an admission to the Orders of Knighthood, it will require the use of a microscope to discover any connection or similarity between Ancient Craft, or Capitular Masonry and the Order of the Temple. Therefore, that which the Order of the Temple might be permitted to do the Blue Lodge and Chapter would be inhibited from doing.

There are lots of good things in this report that we would like to appropriate, but must close. May God bless and keep our brother and the Templars of the Green Mountain State.

R.: E.: Sir Jesse E. Thomson is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### VIRGINIA—1897.

The Seventy-fifth Annual was held in the city of Petersburg, December 6th. There were in attendance: R.: E.: E. H. Miller, Grand Commander; R.: E.: James B. Blanks, Grand Recorder; four Past Grand Commanders, a lot of Grand Representatives, Past Commanders, visitors and the representatives of eighteen Subordinate Commanderies.

An address of welcome and a response thereto preceded the opening.

The R.: E.: opens a business address in the following eloquent and exalted sentiments:

With hearts overflowing with gratitude to Almighty God for his loving care and tender mercies vouchsafed to us during the past year, we again, with unbroken ranks, meet around our sacred altar of the Temple.

It gives me the most sincere pleasure to welcome you to this, the Seventy fifth Grand Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Virginia.

Three-quarters of a century have passed since the organization of this Grand Body, and this meeting to-day might with great propriety be termed the "DIAMOND CONCLAVE" of our Grand Commandery, and, if I am rightly informed, there are but two other Grand Bodies in our beloved Order in this country having the proud distinction of an earlier origin than the Grand Commandery of Virginia.

We are here, my beloved Sir Knights, to plant another mile-post along

the highway of time in the history of Templar Masonry in our State, and God grant that this landmark, and the inscription we leave upon it, may, like the diamond, reflect those acts of knightly love and brotherly affection, that spirit of fraternity, of good will and faithful devotion to the welfare of our Order, with such brilliancy that they may sparkle and shine along the pathway of time, and prove to be of help and comfort to many a weary Pilgrim warrior or valiant Sir Knight, who, following on after us, plodding down life's pathway toward the goal, out into that great ocean of eternity, where, as we are promised if we but continue faithful to the end, we shall be with the Prince in His glory.

As we gather 'round the Holy Altar of Christian Knighthood, and render thanks to Him who has so blessed our noble Order, which we dedicate to His glory and to the uplifting of our fellow-man, let us not forget that, while we have been spared by the devouring scythe of Time, that many of the Fraters of our Subordinate Commanderies and of our sister Grand Jurisdictions have fallen by the way, giving up life's battles and going before us but a while; and is it not well for us to examine ourselves at such a time as this, to see if we have made that progress in this great journey; if we have improved the opportunities which have been granted us to illustrate and exemplify the teachings of our Order in our lives, so that at last, when we too come to lay down the burdens of life, when our deeds of charity and pure beneficence are ended, may we each hear that welcome plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Due attention is paid to the memory and worth of the knightly dead, and the list is a long one.

He reported that every Commandery had been visited and inspected during the year, by properly accredited Grand Officers. He issued but few dispensations, and these for wise purposes. He refused to allow Sir Knights to appear in full dress of a Templar on foot at "tableaux given for charitable purposes," and in this he did wrong. He remarks: "Not being Masonic occasions, I declined," etc.

Now, if any and all things connected with charity are not Masonic, then we do not understand the Institution and have been wrongly taught. The uniform of a Templar can appear in no better field of observation than when an effort is making for the relief of human misery or distress, and, if we can induce a two-bit piece to come out of an unwilling pocket in this behalf by wearing our Templar togs, and if necessary wearing them hind part before, let us not pause a moment, but pitch right in.

His decisions were unimportant, but correct in law.

The proceedings were devoid of special interest. The Grand Treasurer reported a balance of \$38.30 on hand. We find it difficult to reconcile the evident poverty of the Grand Body with the presentation of a Past Grand Commander's jewel, which was made to the retiring Grand Commander. The custom is a very appropriate and proper one, and we should be glad to see it universally observed.

We regret to note the absence of a report on Correspondence, nor do we find that they have now, or have had recently, a committee for that purpose. We do note, however, that they have an Inspector for each Commandery, who makes a detailed report of the condition of the Commandery, all of which occupies lots of space that might better be filled by a Correspondence report. Time was when Virginia reports were among the



most courteous and best, as becomes the sons of the "Mother of presidents and statesmen, the birthplace and home of Washington and the Lees." Wake up, brethren! and assume your proper place in the front rank of Templar literature.

Total membership, 1,472—a loss of nine.

R. E. J. H. Capers is Grand Commander; R. E. James B. Blanks, re-elected Grand Recorder.

#### VIRGINIA—1898.

The Ninety-eighth Annual was held in the city of Richmond, November 10th. There were in attendance R. E. Sir J. H. Capers, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir James H. Blanks, Grand Recorder; five Past Grand Commanders, a lot of Past Eminent Commanders and Grand Representatives and delegates from nineteen Subordinate Commanderies.

The illness of Deputy Grand Commander Woodfin was announced, whereupon the Grand Prelate led in a fervent prayer for the mitigation of his sufferings and his speedy restoration to health. *Amen!*

The Grand Commander's address is a full and well-digested and well-written *resume* of what appears to have been a very successful and creditable administration. At the beginning of his reign he asked the Eminent Commanders to assist him in making the year memorable in Templary in Virginia, and the response was 117 created and dubbed during the year. He reports a gay and festive time at Pittsburg, and recommends the publication in the Proceedings of the laws enacted by the Grand Encampment. His decisions were apparently sound. He issued quite a batch of dispensations, but all for practical and proper purposes.

Appropriate mention is made of the knightly dead.

Grand Treasurer's account shows the payment of \$368 to the educational fund of the Masonic Home, which is 25 cents each for the 1,472 affiliated Templars in Virginia.

A portrait of the Grand Commander makes an admirable frontispiece for the pamphlet. The proceedings were routine and local.

A jewel was presented to the retiring Grand Commander, but we find no report on Correspondence! They spent nearly \$700 at Pittsburg, but are too poor to have a "Reporter."

Total membership, 1,486—a gain of only fourteen, although there were 112 dubbed during the year, as stated above.

R. R. Sir P. T. Woodfin is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder as before.

#### WASHINGTON—1898.

The Eleventh Annual was held in the city of Tacoma, June 8th. Present: R. E. Sir Jacob Weatherwax, Grand Commander; R. E. Sir Yancey C. Blalock, Grand Recorder; the full staff, six Past Grand

Commanders, fourteen Grand Representatives and the representatives of ten Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is short, and contains nothing of general interest. Among his dispensations was one to retake the ballot, for reasons given in the following:

Sir Rush writes as follows: "We had a petition for the Orders to come up for ballot at our last Regular Convocation. The petitioner was rejected (that is all right), but during the passing of the ballot there was an alarm at the door, and the Eminent Commander ordered the Senior Warden to stop with the passing of the ballot and admit the causers of the alarm, which proved to be an examining committee, with visiting Sir Knights. Now, what I claim is this, that the ballot was illegal, because the Eminent Commander had no right to postpone the ballot, when once started, in any manner whatever. Masonic law provides that the ballot, once commenced, shall not be interfered with. Now, Eminent Sir, this is a break of my own. I am not appealing from any decision of the Commandery; have said nothing to any one about it. If you feel that you could conscientiously order a new ballot, I will consult the Eminent Commander, inform him that I am going to appeal from his announcement of the ballot, and assure you that he will heartily concur in the proceeding. Please give us your opinion immediately."

Upon due consideration I decided that, as there was nothing I could find in Templar law or in edicts and decisions from other Grand Jurisdictions governing this matter, while the proceedings may not have been illegal, technically it was an infringement of Templar rights and prerogatives, and, if the Commandery should ask a dispensation for a rebalot on petition, I would grant it.

This strikes us as being "much ado about nothing." Bro. Rush simply had an unholy lust for prominence and to see his name in print, and thus discovered a "mare's nest" where there had been no mare! He permitted one of his Subordinates to parade on Memorial Day as Templars, which was in contravention of the law, and, therefore, a violation of his installation vow. Let us endeavor to keep our vows, even at the expense of a little buncombe patriotism. Further along we find this:

On April 9, at the request of Seattle Commandery, No. 2, and several Sir Knights, I sent the following telegram to Gen. R. A. Alger, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

"In the event of war with Spain, I am authorized by the Knights Templar of the State of Washington to tender through you our services to President McKinley and the nation."

To which I received the following telegram in reply:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15, 1898.

"Jacob Weatherwax, Grand Commander Knights Templar, Seattle, Wash.:

"Many thanks for your patriotic telegram of the 11th inst. No definite plans have been made for the use of volunteers outside of the regular army, but will be as soon as Congress acts.

"R. A. ALGER, Secretary of War."

I desire to say a word to the Sir Knights assembled in regard to the tender of the services of the Sir Knights to President McKinley:

I have known the present efficient Secretary of War, Gen. R. A. Alger, quite intimately for several years, and, believing that, as the appearances indicated, we should be compelled to draw our swords as a nation in the cause of the destitute widows, innocent maidens and helpless orphans—in fact, that humanity called for intervention between the Cubans and Spain,

and feeling that this government should be sustained; also, having been requested by Seattle Commandery, No. 2, and other Sir Knights, and feeling confident in the patriotism and loyalty of the Fraters of this Grand Jurisdiction, I felt it my duty to tender our services to the Secretary of War, as I have done.

And now, Sir Knights, I have no apology to offer. Some may think it was unfortunate to have elected as Grand Commander an old soldier. To those I can only say, should the time come in which it is deemed expedient that we should go to the front, and should I be in command, I will cheerfully excuse all who find that their patriotism lags behind their duties, and that their desire for the almighty dollar and safety overcomes their loyalty.

It was a fortunate thing for our friends, the enemy, that the services of these carpet Knights were not accepted. The carnage would have been simply dreadful, and Spain would have received a worse licking than she got!

An elegant portrait of the R. E. makes the frontispiece of the pamphlet, and a poem by him closes his address. It is entitled "Christ is Risen," possesses considerable merit and would find a place in our report but for its length. We copy his "Conclusion," which is also in verse:

Sir Knights, as I close up my labors today,  
I hope you will treat in the kindest way  
My report of the work that's been lately performed,  
Not insisting that I shall be promptly reformed!  
I've made errors in plenty, of that there's no doubt,  
And I trust the Sir Knights will, in finding them out,  
Extend me that mantle of affection and love  
That, like Charity sweet, still descends from above.  
I have done many things in my past hurried life  
That may tend to create much disturbance and strife,  
But I'll ne'er while I live, and my language is plain,  
Be selected for honors or for knighthood again.  
And now, while my work is being passed in review  
As you read my report, may I ask that, in view  
Of the fact that the young cannot always be wise,  
You will temper your censure into kindly advice?  
Then, perhaps there's a hope I may live out my days  
As I'm helped on in life by your kindness and praise,  
That is all I can ask, is an honor to me  
To help hold the flag that will make Cuba free.  
There's a rustling of pinions, that cry is no dream,  
'Tis our emblem of freedom, the wild eagle's scream.  
The storm king is roused and there's gathering here  
With the ringing of sabre and flashing of spear,  
The roar of the cannon and shriek of the shell,  
The fierce hurtling bullets and wild battle's yell,  
What will stay that dread hand that is hurling afar  
The lightning's fierce glance of full panoplied war?  
There is naught in this world that portends to unite  
A nation or people as being formed for a fight.  
When carnage and blood are abroad in the land,  
And none but the Father can stay its dread hand,  
Then heart beats to heart, there's no East, there's no West,  
There's no North, there's no South, that is loyalty's test.  
We will follow our flag over land and o'er sea.

And fight while we live for "The Land of the Free."  
 Let us hope that the future may bring speedy peace,  
 May bloodshed and carnage and war ever cease,  
 May all Spanish misrule with its horrors be hurled  
 From Cuba's fair land. May there naught in this world  
 Be left for her flag to float over but Spain.  
 May her dearest blood pay for wrecking the "Maine";  
 Then may sweet Peace descend, as in duty and love  
 We will welcome and praise thy descent from above.  
 Now, in closing, dear Fraters, I tender my thanks,  
 As I step to the rear and return to the ranks.

Courteously yours,

J. WEATHERWAX.

The proceedings were of local interest. We note, with pleasure, that the Law Committee disapproved of the Memorial Day parade, and sat on the R. E. in due form. After this the R. E. introduced the following preamble and resolution, which was referred to the Law Committee:

WHEREAS, We as a nation are involved in a war of justice; and,

WHEREAS, None but Almighty God can tell how long this war may last; and,

WHEREAS, Many eminent Fraters are in the ranks and may pay for their loyalty with their lives; and,

WHEREAS, We will naturally desire to honor such fraternal heroes; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That until this war shall have been settled it shall be the undoubted prerogative of the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of the State of Washington, upon proper application from any Subordinate Commandery in this Jurisdiction, to grant them a dispensation to meet and attend Memorial Day services in full Templar uniform, and that any and all provisions now contained in the Constitution, By-Laws, Code, edicts or decisions of this Grand Jurisdiction be and are hereby repealed.

The committee recommended that "it do not pass," and it is to be hoped that the R. E. will give us a rest.

#### RESOLUTIONS TO THE LADIES.

The following was presented by R. E. Sir Jacob Weatherwax:

To those who sent the posies,  
 Like the fragrance of the roses  
 To me seem most divine.  
 Their lovely lips and tresses  
 Call for love's sweet caresses;  
 Would they were ever mine.  
 The Knights thank you assembled,  
 Their joys so made resembled  
 The joys that angels know  
 When morning stars shone brightly,  
 And love was not made lightly  
 By mortals here below.  
 We're evermore your servant,  
 Do not think us unobservant;  
 We note your lovely faces;  
 You've caught us all so neatly,  
 And have done it all so sweetly,  
 We think it must have been your graces.

At the reading of the minutes on the following day the Grand Recorder presented the above set to music, and sang it.

The sentiment and jingle of this production remind us of Byron's happiest conceptions. His hankering for ownership of "love's sweet caresses," and his desire, as expressed in the line, "Would they were ever mine," are not in exact consonance with the color of his hirsute adornments of lips and head! Like the patriarch of old, his "natural force was not abated" and his bump of amativeness was up to the normal! However, it is all right. We confess to a weakness for pretty women, but are no poet. We hope the Grand Recorder is a good singer and did justice to the song.

The Order seems to be in good condition. Total membership, 633—a gain of seven.

Bro. Blalock, Grand Recorder, is the author of Correspondence report, it being his seventh effort in that line, and, like the other six, is a good one. The report covers sixty pages, and briefly notices the minutes of most of the Templar Grands, Mississippi for '97 getting less than a page.

R. E. Sir Carmi Dibble is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent continued.

#### WEST VIRGINIA—1898.

The Twenty-fourth Annual was held in the city of Parkersburg, May 11th. There were in attendance: R. E. Sir Lewis N. Tavenner, Grand Commander; E. Sir R. C. Dunnington, Grand Recorder; all the other Grand Officers, six Past Grand Commanders, three Past Deputy Grand Commanders, quite a list of Past Commanders, sixteen Grand Representatives (including Bro. Darrah for Mississippi), and delegates from ten chartered Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's address is rather short, but is well written, and altogether an excellent paper. We excerpt from his opening:

At this Twenty-fourth Annual Conclave I most heartily and cordially greet you as practical soldiers enlisted in the cause of practical Christianity; not vowed to carnage, ready for reconciliation with any living soul on earth; whose warfare against vice, ignorance and superstition, wrong and oppression awaits no bugle call, but steadily and surely advances along the line with solid front in defense of the destitute, the helpless and the Christian religion, under the banner of the Captain of our Salvation, His faithful soldiers until death.

It is with proud pleasure that I announce the creation of 129 Knights Templar in this Jurisdiction since we last met, and a net increase of eighty-nine in membership in our Order.

Whatsoever may have existed, all differences seem to be healed, all cords and dissensions abated, and throughout our midst there prevails money without lethargy, energy and ambition without strife or contention, save that noble contention or rather emulation of who can best work best agree.

The creation of 129 Knights in a small jurisdiction like West Virginia something to be proud of, provided the material out of which they were made was of the right kind, which we suppose it was in this case.

Appropriate tribute is paid to the memory and worth of the magnanimous dead. A circular letter announces the decease of our good brother, Past Grand Commander O. S. Long, which sad event occurred at his home in Charleston, December 26th, 1897, aged 61 years, 2 months and 10 days. The R. E. pays eloquent and high tribute to the life, character and labors of this justly distinguished Mason and Templar. Peace to his ashes. We tender our sincere sympathy to the family of our brother and to the Templars of West Virginia in their sore bereavement, in which Templars everywhere have a part.

His dispensations were for proper purposes. He made but one decision, and that was correct.

The Staff Officers also made reports, but they contain matter of local interest only. One new Commandery was granted a charter. The finances are on a healthy footing. Total membership, 1,026—a gain of seventy-five. Portraits of Past Grand Commanders O. S. Long and John W. Morris, and Present Commander John A. Zorn and Grand Treasurer D. W. Emmons embellish the pamphlet.

Bro. W. W. VanWinkle is the author of an excellent report on Correspondence, which covers 103 pages and considers, with good sense and discriminating judgment, the proceedings of forty-four Grand Bodies, Mississippi for 1897 receiving due attention. Under Florida, he remarks anent the Grand Commander's address:

He thinks it would advance perfection if good material were selected to perform ritualistic work, "without the intervention of inexperienced men, who may happen at the time to fill the several offices."

We beg to disagree with this suggestion. It is well to have drilled members to supply absences, who may act in emergencies; but the officers should familiarize themselves with the work and be required to do it. They should not be encouraged to neglect incumbent duty. A rule had better be adopted that attains in other jurisdictions, requiring a certificate of proficiency before allowing installation. Inexperience would then be avoided.

We concur. Under Maryland, and copying from Bro. Gorgas' review of Montana, these interesting statistics of the value of material and cost to build the Temple of Solomon:

Few people, even in these days of palmy extravagance and millionaire display, have an adequate impression of the enormous cost of the great temple. According to Villanpandus, the "talents" of gold, silver and brass were equal to the enormous sum of £6,879,822,000. The worth of jewels is placed at a figure equally as high. The vessels of gold, according to Josephus, were valued at 140,000 talents, which, reduced to English money, was equal to £575,296,203. The vessels of silver, according to the same authority, were still more valuable, being set down as worth £646,344,000. Priests' vestments and the robes of singers, £2,010,000, and the trumpets £300,000. To this add the expenses of the building—material, labor, etc., and some wonderful figures result. Ten thousand men hewing cedars, 60,000 bearers of burdens, 80,000 hewers of stone, overseers, all of whom were employed for seven years, and upon whom besides their wages, Solomon bestowed £6,733,970. If their daily food was worth 50 cents each, the sum total for all was £63,877,088 during time of building. The materials in the rough are estimated as having been worth £2,545,337,000. This gives a total, just for this much of

expense, which by no means expresses the whole cost, of £10,719,760,261, or about \$52,117,034,867.46.

The money stock of gold on January 1, 1894, in the whole world, was \$3,965,900,000, or about one-sixteenth of the amount of money represented by that magnificent structure, a building the plans and specifications for which were the work of God, whose infinite resources also furnished the material and the cost of construction! Well might the psalmist say: "When I consider the heavens, the work of Thy hands, the moon and stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou visitest him?"

Bro. Ven's attention to Mississippi is pleasant and kind. We clip:

Special mention is made to E. Sir Robert Brewster, who had been Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Texas thirty-three years when he died. This left E. Sir J. L. Power, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Mississippi, who had served twenty-six years, the oldest in years of service in the world.

His dispensations were granted mostly to authorize a ballot before statutory time had elapsed. We regret to note this acquiescence in a practice that is bad and apparently becoming worse.

The offices of devotion were observed in the evening in the Methodist Church, conducted by Sir A. B. Jones, Grand Prelate, whose discourse is printed in full in the "Proceedings." We regret that our space does not permit extracts. The sentiments are worthy of reprint.

From the Grand Recorder's reports it appears the Thanksgiving contributions to the Natchez Protestant Orphan Asylum was \$1,958.00. This shows a liberal and charitable spirit in so small membership.

The Grand Commander made an evident mistake in instituting Coast Commandery at Biloxi while under dispensation. The committee were of this opinion, as shown by report, but treat the error in a generous spirit.

Our good brother has a pleasant word of commendation for this committee, which is much appreciated. We are glad to know that the reading of our reports gives him pleasure. That is the effect they generally produce on sensible men, hence we are not so much surprised!

We copy his modest "Conclusion":

Again we close our review of the proceedings of all the American Grand Commanderies, and in addition the Priorities of England and Wales and Canada. We state the case mildly when we say we are not satisfied with our work. We are conscious of doing our best under somewhat adverse conditions, and beg the kind indulgence of the readers who may think this work worthy of their perusal, trusting they may find subjects to interest and give them information; and ask of my brethren of the "Guild" their charitable consideration and mild criticism, as we apprehend we have made ourself a target to be shot at.

We have done the best we could during the intervals of time permitted us, and those who know the many, and how imperative are the demands upon the leisure, scantily ours, will readily excuse imperfections. We have written, and it must remain for what it is worth, but would it were worthier.

With grateful thanks for kind and courteous treatment accorded, I wish you all prosperity.

Ending with the remark that he owes no apology to anybody. His report is one of the very best and most exhaustive in the lot, and has but

one fault, and that is, not enough Van Winkle in it. It is really superior to ours, and that is saying a heap for it!

R.: E.: Sir John A. Zorn is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Correspondent as before.

#### WISCONSIN—1898.

The Fortieth Annual was held in the city of Milwaukee, November 1st. Present: R.: E.: Charles D. Rogers, Grand Commander; E.: Sir John W. Laffin, Grand Recorder; all the balance of the staff except Grand Captain General (who had been called to rest in the Asylum above), six Past Grand Commanders, two Past Grand Generalissimos, three Past Grand Captain-Generals, nineteen Grand Representatives (including Bro. Griffin for Mississippi), and representatives from twenty-three of the twenty-eight Subordinate Commanderies.

The address is a short, but comprehensive, *resume* of a successful and creditable administration, but is mostly local in its reference. We clip the "opening chorus":

#### *Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery:*

Devoutly thankful to God Almighty for sparing our lives and again permitting us to assemble here, I extend to you a knightly greeting to this the Fortieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. The thirteen months that have passed since you placed me at the head of this Grand Body, while abounding in responsibilities, has been made pleasant by the hearty support you have accorded me and by the evidences of harmony and prosperity that exist in the Constituent Commanderies. This is indeed a noble Order, Sir Knights, and to advance its interests our best efforts should be given, for we can never plant its standard too high. No human mind ever conceived sentiments that are loftier, teachings that are purer and precepts that should tend toward the betterment of man, than can be found throughout our entire ritual. The fault that they are not exemplified in our lives more than they are, lies with ourselves. "We leave undone those things we ought to do, and do those things we ought not to do," and by so doing, unconsciously, perhaps, bring reproach upon our Order and a distrust of the sincerity of the professions we have made, in the minds of those who never enter our portals. Let us, therefore, Sir Knights, while covering with the mantle of Christian charity the shortcomings of all, again uncover and renew our vows. Let us pledge each with the other "that by our very title, by our love for each other, by our devotion to the principles we profess," we will endeavor, with Divine help, to exemplify, in our daily walk and conversation, the beautiful lessons taught in these sublime Orders.

To all of which we say, Amen!

Full and tender record is made of the memory and virtues of the knightly dead. Prefacing his remarks on this subject, he says:

Never in the history of this Grand Body has death made such inroads into the ranks of its active officers as it has during the past year. recalls with increased force the impressive lesson we have so often heard "Ever keep in mind this solemn truth. You know not how soon may be called upon to render an account unto the Supreme Judge, "whom the minutest act of your life is not hidden."

He visited in person every Commandery in his jurisdiction, and



the sensible and timely suggestions he makes along this line, and in regard to amount of annual dues and other matters connected with the domestic economy of the Subordinate Commanderies, good will doubtless result. He reports the majority of them in good financial trim. He also reported the cost of the Pittsburg "outing" to be a trifle over \$500.

The proceedings were routine and of local interest. We note that the cost of printing the Proceedings—a pamphlet of over 200 pages—was only \$274.00, and other printing \$123.75, which strikes us as being remarkably cheap. Total membership, 3,042—a gain of seventy-seven. Cash in treasury, \$3,311.71. Order in excellent shape.

Our good brother, Swain, is, as usual, the architect of the Fraternal Correspondence report, which, like its predecessors from the same gifted, genial and prolific source, is up to the highest standard of excellence. Forty-three Templar "Grands" made up the procession that passed in review before our brother, Mississippi being conspicuously absent, which we much regret. We clip his opening:

We present our sixteenth annual report, and modestly bespeak for it the consideration due such a review.

As we write, the Templar atmosphere is breezy with the preparations for the great triennial gathering at Pittsburg. Let us hope that not only will those in attendance reap all the pleasure and profit to be legitimately anticipated, but that the Grand Encampment itself will be true to its mission, and accomplish much for the good of the Order. The most important task is to do away with the crudities, absurdities and contradictions in that most incongruous document—the Templar Code. Before this sees the light of print, the gathering will have passed into history; but we shall not so soon know how far our hopes have been realized.

We beg to suggest that it is not difficult to guess how little probability there is of realizing hopes of this sort in connection with that Body.

Under Alabama we find this, which meets our hearty approval:

The unique feature of the proceedings was the dedication, by the Grand Commander and happy father, of his baby boy to the Grand Commandery, which duly accepted the gift, and will, we suppose, hold itself responsible for his bringing up and his walking in the way he should go. We congratulate the father and wish him and his boy long life and happiness; but the whole proceeding seems to us to smack a little of the natural gush of a father over his first-born, which is better kept out of print.

There is lots of assininity in this old world of ours.

Under Illinois we find this entertaining romance of the late unpleasantness:

As we write this report we learn that the General is on his way home from abroad, and hope soon to meet him; and, though we were both "Yanks," we will pledge each other and our Southern brethren now at one with us, in the Kentucky cider, or in something as good:

Bro. Q. O. Eckford, of Aberdeen, Mississippi, late United States Consul of Jamaica, West Indies, whom we met during our last visit to that land, tells a good story of the "late unpleasantness," showing the love there is for each other existing among the soldiers and sailors of the contending forces. Two naval vessels, United States and Confederate, were engaged in combat, when the Confederate struck her colors and the commander went on board the United States vessel to deliver up his sword. Two officers recognized each other, having each graduated at the

Annapolis Naval Academy. As the Confederate officer unbuckled his sword and extended its hilt to the victor, the United States officer said: "I don't want your sword, Bill; keep it. Come down in the cabin and have a drink." "What," exclaims Bill; "have you some grog left? Why didn't you say so before? I would have struck an hour ago."

The "General" he refers to is the celebrated tramp and Correspondent of Illinois, Bro. John Corson Smith. Our brother always gets up an elegant report, but this one is among his best, and if some of our little five-cent watermelon-headed Templars, who lack the sense and wisdom to appreciate these Correspondence reports, would read it, they would find their store of valuable knowledge increased about one thousand per cent. We copy his "Conclusion," which points a moral that we commend to the attention of some of our "cry-baby-cripsy" volunteers in the Spanish war:

There is scarcely a volume which has passed under our review which has not had more or less of comment or reference to the conflict which has arisen and passed into history since our last report. It seems to mark a great change in our national life, and brings to us new duties and new theories of our destiny as a nation. Sufficient time has not elapsed for the new division of parties which must come, and we can yet discuss these questions without being accused of partisan bias. In the interim newspapers are discussing "mismanagement" and "unnecessary sufferings of our soldiers." Some of the complaints bring a smile to the veterans of '61 to '65, both North and South.

We remember, on our march down from Gettysburg, halting for a day at Frederick City, Md., to get shoes and clothing for our men, some of whom had marched barefooted for two or three hundred miles. In the next field was camped a famous New York militia regiment, which had just come in from Baltimore, from which we were soon flooded with visitors who were complaining bitterly. They had slept one night without tents, and had had no soft bread for two days! Some of the present complaints bring that incident to mind.

The complaints seem to detract from our estimate of the heroism of our volunteers, but they will soon be forgotten, and we shall only remember their patriotism and their deeds.

R. E. Sir Theodore W. Goldin is Grand Commander; Grand Recorder and Reporter continued.

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#### WYOMING—1898.

The Eleventh Annual was held in the Masonic Hall at Evanston, April 13th. Present: R. E. David H. Craig, Grand Commander; E. John C. Baird, P. G. C., Grand Recorder; four Past Grand Commanders, and the representatives of seven Subordinate Commanderies; also nine Representatives of Grand Commanderies, ours not included.

The address of the Grand Commander is a short business document, confined mostly to local affairs. He opens as follows:

It is about eleven months since we last met, and the work to be done and duties to be performed on this our Eleventh Annual Conclave are now before us. We have every reason to be thankful to the Great Sovereign of the Universe for his manifold blessings bestowed upon us in the past year. It has been a year of peace and good-will towards each other. Love an

harmony prevail throughout our ranks, and never at any time since our organization has a year passed in which the true principles of Knight Templarism have been so fully portrayed, and its noble teachings followed so closely, as in the year now fast drawing to a close.

He reports that the ranks of the Grand Body had not been broken by death, and that but two Templars had died in the State during the year.

He closes his reference to the knightly dead with the following :

'Way down the land, the church yard's open gate  
Invites the passer-by to meditate.  
The weeping willows kiss the dust and sigh,  
While stately elms aspire towards the sky ;  
The graveled path we fain would lightly tread,  
For here we muse among the silent dead ;  
And every mound and sculptured stone attests  
The burial place of man, who mouldering rests  
Beneath the peaceful sward. His earthly cares  
Are o'er ; his outer form dissolved—yet sharea  
His soul that brighter glory won above,  
The fruit of long-abiding faith and love.  
Yes ! blest forever is the Christian strife—  
'Tis here we meet the solemn Hush of Life !

His dispensations were few and for proper purposes.

The proceedings were devoid of general interest. The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance in hand of \$724.04. The Grand Recorder reports a gain of five, with a total of 326, and remarks :

In my last report I intimated that Wyoming held the record of the greatest percentage of Templars to Royal Arch Masons of any State in the Union. Our remarkable statistics have attracted the attention of Templar statisticians, all of whom express gratification and surprise thereat. According to the Wyoming table presented last year, this Jurisdiction ranks first in the percentage of Templars to Royal Arch Masons. We also ranked first in the percentage of gain for that year. It is not possible that we should keep up our progress in the rate of gain, as that must hereafter keep even pace with the increase of population. But it is believed that for many years to come Wyoming will hold the record for the largest percentage of Templars to Royal Arch Masons of any Jurisdiction in the United States.

The present tabulated statistics are not so fat and round as they were last year, but still they show a vigorous condition of the Order.

We clip the following remarkable confession of faith, where there is absolutely no foundation for it, from the report of Committee on Doings of Grand Officers :

We approve the suggestion of the erection of a Temple for Templar and Masonic purposes in the city of Washington. But, in view of the claim that the establishment of the edifice is to be taken as an expression of the national desire for the city of Washington to be fixed as the permanent place of meeting of the Grand Encampment, we recommend that the subject of making the same be deferred until the next Annual Conclave. We believe that the salient moral effect of the meetings of the Grand campment in divers places not only promotes the welfare of the Order, it is beneficent in the highest degree to the Christian religion.

If there is an element of uplift or helpfulness for the cause of Christ, even in the direction of a pure morality, in the meetings of the Grand campment of Knights Templar of the United States, we are perfectly

free to own that we are ignorant of what constitutes pure religion or morality. This sort of rot is nauseating and stupid.

Touching on this same matter of Grand Encampment, we find the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the representatives of this Grand Commandery, in the Triennial Conclave to be held at Pittsburg, Pa., on the second Tuesday of October, 1898, be invoked to sustain by their votes the present rank of Eminent Grand Prelate as fifth (5th) in line of officers, and *elective*, and the present rank of Prelate in all Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies as fourth (4th) in line and *elective*, in accordance with prescription ever since the formation of the Grand Encampment.

Although not in accordance with "*prescription*," we would, if consulted, "*prescribe*" the abolition of the office of the Prelate in the Grand Encampment as an unnecessary appendage. "What concord is there between Christ and Belial?"

Forty pages of the pamphlet are devoted to a short but really good report on Correspondence, by Past Grand Commander and Grand Recorder Baird, in which the transactions of thirty-nine Templar Legislatures are courteously noticed, Mississippi for 1897 among the number. Under Alabama we find this:

We have noticed that several Grand Commanders of Southern States have referred to the same point. They say that the lack of increase was due to political excitement. From this it would appear that politics absorbs the interest and monopolizes the time of Southerners. This complaint was made in no Northern State. It is doubtful if ground for it existed outside of those instanced above. As for Wyoming, the same Templar year showed the greatest increase our Grand Commandery ever had in one year, the percentage of gain being twenty-two. It is to be regretted that the mere existence of a Presidential campaign should overshadow the interest of Knights in the Order.

He of Alabama was simply mistaken; this is all. Politics had no more to do with Masonry or Templary in Alabama than they have with religion; not a bit.

Under California, the following bit of history:

There was a case of "a useless right arm" for decision, and the Grand Commander held that the application could not be received. It is strange what variance in construction prevails on this point. We were present at Longmont, Colorado, one day years ago when a veteran of the civil war, whose right arm was left on a Southern battle-field as an earnest of his loyalty and bravery, was dubbed and created a Knight Templar. He rapidly advanced, and in a few years became the Grand Commander of his State. He was valiant and efficient, and honored his high station. His wise counsel is gratefully accepted in the Grand Encampment sessions. No one questions his right to membership. The presence of brain and heart, and not the absence of an arm, determined that right. Such a Templar is Gen. Byron L. Carr, the present Attorney-General of Colorado. If it is a question of arms and legs, and not intelligence and worth, parades may well be dispensed with. The military simile is gone too far. It reminds us of the resume once made of the qualities necessary to make a certain man a great statesman—"All he needs is brains and good morals; he has lungs."

In all of which we concur.

Bro. Baird's attention to Mississippi, though brief, is very kind

pleasant. With the kind permission of Bro. Ruckle, we will excerpt this:

Correspondence by Sir E. G. DeLap, P. G. C., than whom there is no more doughty and combative Templar in the South, unless it is Sir Frederic Speed. These Sir Knights are both intelligent, keen, and possessed of a zeal for controversy characteristic of ancient Knighthood. The report is excellently arranged and written, and Sir DeLap's work does very much to keep Mississippi prominent among the Templars of the country. In reviewing Wyoming for 1896 he pointedly says: "No report on Correspondence. The pamphlet is adorned with a picture of the Grand Commander, Bro. Foote. This is another instance where art is preferred to literature." He also hopes for a report the succeeding year.

Our hope finds full fruition in the excellent paper under consideration. There are lots of good things in our brother's report that we would like to copy, but the space allotted to Wyoming to full.

R. E. Sir William A. Robins is Grand Commander; Past Grand Commander John C. Baird, re-elected Grand Recorder and reappointed Correspondent.

#### CONCLUSION.

Having, to the best of our ability, under our environments, performed the duty assigned us, we submit the result of our labors for your inspection, with a consciousness of an earnest desire that you may find something therein that will add to your knowledge of matters and men of the world of Templary. There is a dearth of exciting topics for discussion, hence the pithiness and spice that are usually in evidence in these reports are absent this year to a great degree. The recent action of the Grand Encampment, making affiliation with the Lodge and Chapter a condition precedent to admission into the Commandery and continuous membership in the so-called lower bodies necessary in order to remain in good standing as a Templar, is likely to make things somewhat lively for the next three years. Much can be said as to the wisdom of the action in question, and much can be said against the wisdom of the move, and we may, therefore, expect sharp skirmishing all along the line. We are inclined to the opinion that the next Triennial will undo the work of the last, but it is possible we may be mistaken, although that is a rare event with us!

It is encouraging to know that the Grand Encampment made an earnest effort to do something practical and sensible at its late meeting. This is the first time in its history that it has shown any signs of vitality in the direction of business, and it is possible that the old lady may wake up and amount to something after a while.

The Order seems to be in a healthy and prosperous condition all over the country. Our late scrimmage with the Dons has had the effect to stave off an epidemic of patriotism from Maine to the Rio Grande, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific; has destroyed sectionalism, except in the reports of a few contemptible curs, both in the North and in the South. They are so utterly hateful and mean that, when they arrive in the land, the angels will move out and leave them in peaceable possession.

sion. It has also demonstrated the fact that it won't do to fool with the English-speaking people of this globe, as they are disposed, when there is a fight in prospect, to stand shoulder to shoulder under a community of interest and the ties of consanguinity. There is an occasional ass in Congress, and out of it, who is opposed to this country reaping the full fruits of her valor and the devotion of her sons, and all because the Church of Rome has a lot of Friars, Monks and other concomitants in that peculiar church over in the Philippines who desire to keep on robbing the poor natives, as has been their custom for many years. These buncombe patriots make much fuss about the rights of man and the Declaration of Independence, and take a deep interest in the progenitors and associates of the Malay pirates and other savages who constitute the bulk of the native population of the Archipelago, and are about as fit to govern themselves as the devil is to become a preacher of righteousness! This sort of people ought to be hung or exported to Patagonia or the interior of Africa, where the natives enjoy the privilege of self-government and exercise it just as intelligently as the Filipinos would if we allowed them to try the experiment!!

We have read with much interest the reports of the management, etc., of the Masonic Homes of Missouri and Ohio, and have concluded to summarize certain matters connected with these Institutions, for the information of Bro. Barkley *et al.*, as it may be of benefit to them in connection with the contemplated Widows' and Orphans' Home of Mississippi. We have been trying to raise an endowment fund since we met at Greenville in 1891, I think, and have succeeded in piling up less than \$30,000 for that object since the date named. Such being the case, a little of the history of the Ohio Home, for the establishment of which they laid the first stone in that same year of '91, will be of interest.

The "Home" was opened for business on April 1st, 1897, up to which time there had been raised a trifle over \$170,000, the total being on July 31st, 1897, \$174,729, and on July 31st, 1898, the total had grown to \$191,736, showing receipts for the past year of \$17,007, with expenditures of \$19,425. The report for the fiscal year ending July 31st, 1898, shows inmates as follows: Men 38, women 12, boys 17 and girls 10, a total of 77. There were probably a dozen of these that were not in the Home more than six or eight months of the year, while seven died and two left the Home.

We assume that seventy-five inmates for the entire fiscal year will be about the correct estimate. The report shows that the cost of "maintenance" for these seventy-five inmates was \$15,693, or an average cost of \$209.24 a head!! In the report of the Special Committee of the Grand Lodge, or in some of its deliverances, rather, we find the proposition advanced, with all the gravity of a judge passing sentence of death, that the Mississippi Home, when in full blast, will contain from 500 to 1,000 inmates, and they as calmly contemplate this vast clientage as though they had millions behind them, instead of a sum that would not pay the cost of maintenance of one-fourth of the number, not including cost

buildings, site, betterments or anything at all except the household expenses for one year!

Let us figure a little. Five hundred inmates at \$209 a head per annum requires just \$104,500 to do the needful and make both ends meet. We have less than \$30,000 with which to put up the buildings, furnish them, buy the site and stock it, and when all this is done our capital will be gone and we will be hopelessly in debt, and, if only seventy-five instead of 500 were admitted, where is the money to feed and clothe them coming from? The present assessment puts into the Home fund less than \$2,500 a year, which would leave a deficit of about \$12,000 per annum, and, if you induce the brethren to tax themselves a dollar a head, which they will not do, you would still find a \$6,000 deficit staring you in the face.

Much as we would rejoice in the successful outcome of Bro. Barkley's pet scheme, the endowment and operation of of a Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home, we confess our utter despair of seeing the fruition of that desire by any one now on the stage of life.

Ohio has a membership of 41,000 Master Masons, 14,000 Royal Arch Masons and 8,000 Templars, while Mississippi has only 9,110 Master Masons, 1,415 Royal Arch Masons and 478 Templars; or, to put it still plainer, Ohio has more than 5 to 1 in comparison with us numerically, and, when it comes to wealth and ability to give, we are not in the race at all with them!

Ohio, with its sixty-odd thousand Masonic contributors, has succeeded in raising \$191,000 for a Masonic Home since 1890, while we have less than one-sixth that amount and yet propose to start an Institution to accommodate more than five times the number than has been cared for in the Ohio Home.

The propensity of some of our clerical friends in the different churches to seize upon any scheme or means to bring themselves before the public as benefactors of their race, philanthropists and Dorcases, backed by sundry laymen who like to see their names in type, has resulted in the springing up of sundry mushroom Orphanages in this State, whose ephemeral existence surprise their promoters and progenitors, while, at the same time, the drawing away of contributors from the Asylum, which has so long been the ward, as it were, of the Order in this State, has, or will be, conducive to the destruction, in a large degree, of its usefulness. All this is to be deprecated, and, to add to the list a Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, will give a plethora of Asylums and a famine of the sinews of support for them.

We beg pardon for inserting this dissertation on Asylums in this report, but, as the matter is one in which we are all interested and in reference to which we wish to act intelligently, we trust you will pardon the lapse.

With an earnest prayer for your prosperity and that of the Order everywhere, and with affectionate regards, we beg to remain,

Courteously yours,

E. G. DELAP, Committee.





THIS PAGE

IS SET APART

*in Knightly Remembrance of*

***R. E. Wm. R. Bowen,***

*Grand Recorder and Past Grand  
Commander,*

*Grand Commandery of Nebraska.*

BORN SEPTEMBER 4, 1836. DIED MAY 6, 1899.

---

***Sir James A. Henry,***

*Grand Recorder*

*Grand Commandery of Arkansas.*

BORN JULY 9, 1817. DIED APRIL 25, 1899.

---

***R. E. S. P. Hamilton,***

*Past Grand Commander and*

*Past Grand Recorder,*

*Grand Commandery South Carolina.*

DIED JUNE 21, 1899.

---

" There's a word which couples life and death,  
Sweet as a love-song, solemn as a knell;  
It breathes a blessing, while it chokes the breath,  
And eyes smile tears when lips repeat Farewell!"

# ADDRESS OF GRAND RECORDERS.

|                               |                           |                                |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alabama .....                 | H. CLAY ARMSTRONG .....   | Montgomery.                    |
| Arizona .....                 | GEORGE J. RUSKRUGE .....  | Tucson.                        |
| Arkansas .....                | FAY HEMPSTAD .....        | Little Rock.                   |
| California .....              | WILLIAM A. DAVIES .....   | Sacramento.                    |
| Canada Sov. Gr't Priory ..... | WILL H. WHYTE .....       | Guthrie.                       |
| Colorado .....                | ED. C. PARMELEE .....     | Denver.                        |
| Connecticut .....             | ELI C. BIRDSEY .....      | Meriden.                       |
| District of Columbia .....    | A. W. JOHNSTON .....      | Washington.                    |
| England and Wales .....       | C. F. MATIER .....        | London, Free-<br>mason's Hall. |
| Florida .....                 | WILBER P. WEBSTER .....   | Jacksonville.                  |
| Georgia .....                 | WILLIAM S. ROCKWELL ..... | Savannah.                      |
| Illinois .....                | GILBERT W. BARNARD .....  | Chicago.                       |
| Indiana .....                 | WILLIAM H. SMYTHE .....   | Indianapolis.                  |
| Indian Territory .....        | J. S. MURROW .....        | Atoka.                         |
| Iowa .....                    | ALF. WINGATE .....        | Des Moines.                    |
| Ireland .....                 | JOHN A. BAKER .....       | Dublin.                        |
| Kansas .....                  | T. J. ANDERSON .....      | Topeka.                        |
| Kentucky .....                | A. H. BRYANT .....        | Covington.                     |
| Louisiana .....               | RICHARD LAMBERT .....     | New Orleans.                   |
| Maine .....                   | STEPHEN BERRY .....       | Portland.                      |
| Maryland .....                | JOHN H. MILLER .....      | Baltimore.                     |
| Mass and Rhode Island .....   | BENJAMIN W. ROWELL .....  | Lynn.                          |
| Michigan .....                | H. L. ANTHONY .....       | Sturgis.                       |
| Minnesota .....               | THOMAS MONTGOMERY .....   | St. Paul.                      |
| Mississippi .....             | J. L. POWER .....         | Jackson.                       |
| Missouri .....                | WILLIAM H. MAYO .....     | St. Louis.                     |
| Montana .....                 | EDWARD D. NEIL .....      | Helena.                        |
| Nebraska .....                | FRANCIS E. WHITE .....    | Plattsmouth.                   |
| New Hampshire .....           | GEORGE P. CLEAVES .....   | Concord.                       |
| New Jersey .....              | CHARLES BECHTEL .....     | Trenton.                       |
| New York .....                | JOHN F. SHAFER .....      | Albany.                        |
| North Carolina .....          | HORACE H. MUNSON .....    | Wilmington.                    |
| North Dakota .....            | FRANK J. THOMPSON .....   | Fargo.                         |
| Ohio .....                    | JOHN N. BELL .....        | Dayton.                        |
| Oklahoma .....                | H. S. CUNNINGHAM .....    | Guthrie.                       |
| Oregon .....                  | JAMES F. ROBINSON .....   | Eugene.                        |
| Pennsylvania .....            | WILLIAM W. ALLEN .....    | Philadelphia.                  |
| Prince Edward Islands .....   | B. WILSON HIGGS .....     | Charlottetown.                 |
| Scotland .....                | LINDSEY MACKERSEY .....   | Edinburg.                      |
| South Dakota .....            | GEORGE A. PETTIGREW ..... | Flandreau.                     |
| Tennessee .....               | JOHN B. GARRETT .....     | Nashville.                     |
| Texas .....                   | J. C. KIDD .....          | Dallas.                        |
| Vermont .....                 | WARREN G. REYNOLDS .....  | Burlington.                    |
| Victoria, Great Priory .....  | CHARLES CHAPMAN .....     | Melbourne, Aus'a.              |
| Virginia .....                | JAMES B. ELANKS .....     | Petersburg.                    |
| Washington .....              | YANCEY C. BLALOCK .....   | Walla Walla.                   |
| Wyoming .....                 | JOHN C. BAIRD .....       | Cheyenne.                      |
| West Virginia .....           | D. W. EMMONS .....        | Huntington.                    |
| Wisconsin .....               | JOHN W. LAFLIN .....      | Milwaukee.                     |

GRAND ENCAMPMENT—R. E. Sir Reuben H. Lloyd, Grand M.  
San Francisco, Cal.; William H. Mayo, Grand Recorder, St. Louis. &  
Next Triennial Grand Conclave, at Louisville, August 27, 1901.

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMISSIONED TO THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

*Grand Commandery. Representative—Postoffice. Date of Commission.*

|                   |                                       |                    |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alabama .....     | Rev. N. G. Augustus, Durant .....     | March 16, 1893.    |
| Arkansas .....    | Harry T. Howard, Biloxi.....          | February 7, 1899.  |
| California .....  | Phineas M. Savery, P. G. C., Tupelo.. | March 27, 1890.    |
| Colorado .....    | T. G. Birchett, M. D., Vicksburg....  | January 24, 1890.  |
| Connecticut....   | G. D. Brown, Water Valley .....       | November 1, 1898.  |
| Florida .....     | J. E. Seavey, Brookhaven.....         | July 28, 1899.     |
| Georgia .....     | J. C. French, P. G. C., Natchez ..... | December 7, 1892.  |
| Illinois.....     | James K. Moore, Vicksburg.....        | January 2, 1899.   |
| Indiana .....     | C. E. Grafton, Brookhaven.....        | July 25, 1899.     |
| Iowa.....         | Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Vicksburg.. | December 22, 1898. |
| Kansas. ....      | Wm. G. Benbrook, P. G. C., Natchez..  | July 13, 1896.     |
| Kentucky .....    | Cass Oltenburg, Lexington.....        | January 25, 1899.  |
| Louisiana....     | E. Geo. DeLap, P. G. C., Natchez....  | 1892.              |
| Maine.....        | C. L. Lincoln, Columbus.....          | October 16, 1895.  |
| Massachusetts and |                                       |                    |
| Rhode Island ..   | John S. Cobb, Verona.....             | August, 1898.      |
| Minnesota .....   | H. M. Romberger, P. G. C., Winona..   | November 12, 1895. |
| Missouri.....     | J. L. Power, Jackson .....            | February 4, 1890.  |
| Nebraska .....    | Emmett N. Thomas, Greenville .....    | April 12, 1894.    |
| New Hampshire.    | Gid. W. Cox, P. G. C., Columbus....   | August 1, 1899.    |
| New Jersey.....   | E. E. Clement.....                    | August 21, 1899.   |
| New York.....     | Enoch George DeLap, Natchez.....      | January 15, 1890.  |
| North Carolina... | Rev. E. Thompson.....                 | March 19, 1897.    |
| North Dakota ...  | John D. Miles, Vicksburg.....         |                    |
| Ohio.....         | Rev. John A. B. Jones, Magnolia....   | April 10, 1893.    |
| Pennsylvania....  | Chas. T. Chamberlain, Natchez .....   | March 14, 1893.    |
| South Dakota....  | William G. Sykes, Aberdeen.....       | December 16, 1898. |
| Tennessee.....    | William Starling, Greenville .....    | January 21, 1890.  |
| Texas.....        | G. J. Bahin, Natchez.....             | November 19, 1898. |
| Vermont.....      | J. J. Hayes, P. G. C., Vicksburg..... | June 5, 1899.      |
| Virginia.....     | William G. Benbrook .....             | July, 1896.        |
| West Virginia...  | W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C., Okolona.  |                    |
| Wisconsin .....   | John A. Dicks, Natchez.....           | November 20, 1895. |
| Wyoming .....     | J. H. Wright.....                     | October, 1896.     |

# GRAND REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMISSIONED BY THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSISSIPPI.

---

|                                      |                                     |                    |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alabama .....                        | Henry H. Mathews, Montgomery        | October 9, 1896.   |
| Arkansas .....                       | George P. Taylor, Forest City       | January 18, 1890.  |
| California .....                     | Thos. H. Caswell, San Francisco     | December 23, 1890. |
| Colorado .....                       | Alfonso A. Burnard, Leadville       | January 2, 1890.   |
| Connecticut .....                    | John W. Mix, Meriden                | July 22, 1899.     |
| Florida .....                        | John Sinclair, Jacksonville         | October 9, 1896.   |
| District Columbia                    | Albert B. Jackson                   | October 19, 1896.  |
| Georgia ...., .....                  | L. J. Blalock, Americus             | October 9, 1896.   |
| Illinois .....                       | James G. Elward, Joliet             | January 9, 1899.   |
| Indiana .....                        | Frederick Glass, Madison            | August 17, 1899.   |
| Iowa .....                           | James Morton, Cedar Rapids          | November 28, 1892. |
| Kansas .....                         | Charles M. Jones, Wichita           | July 22, 1899.     |
| Kentucky .....                       | Reginald Heber Thompson, Louisville | June 8, 1892.      |
| Louisiana .....                      | Joseph H. DeGrange, New Orleans     | ..                 |
| Maine .....                          | J. H. Drummond, Portland            | December 23, 1889. |
| Maryland .....                       | George Cook, Baltimore              | October 8, 1896.   |
| Massachusetts and<br>Rhode Island .. | Benjamin Rowell, Lynn               | December 16, 1892. |
| Minnesota .....                      | Charles H. Mix, Crookston           | June 28, 1893      |
| Missouri .....                       | Rev. Alex. M. Dockery, St. Louis    | February 5, 1890.  |
| Montana .....                        | E. D. Aiken, Butte City             | July 10, 1891.     |
| Nebraska .....                       | Louis F. de Lorermier, Desha        | October 8, 1896.   |
| New Hampshire ..                     | Rev. Daniel C. Roberts, Concord     | July 22, 1899.     |
| New Jersey .....                     | Thomas Godson, Newark               | December 23, 1889. |
| New York .....                       | Theodore P. Calkins, Binghampton    | August 19, 1899.   |
| North Carolina ..                    | Martin S. Willard, Wilmington       | March 9, 1897.     |
| North Dakota ....                    | Frank A. Briggs, Bismarck           | October 8, 1896.   |
| Ohio .....                           | William L. Beuchner, Youngstown     | March 11, 1893.    |
| Oregon .....                         | Irvin W. Pratt                      | August 19, 1899.   |
| Pennsylvania. ....                   | James H. Coddington, Towanda        | October 19, 1897.  |
| South Dakota .....                   | Levi B. French, Yankton             | July 22, 1899.     |
| Tennessee ..                         | James Park Hanner, Franklin         | August 16, 1899.   |
| Texas .....                          | Samuel M. Williams                  | July 7, 1899.      |
| Vermont .....                        | George W. Squier, Swanton           | January 18, 1889.  |
| Virginia .....                       | John T. Parham, Petersburg          | August 5, 1889.    |
| Washington .....                     | Walter J. Thompson, Tacoma          | May 24, 1889.      |
| West Virginia ....                   | Thomas D. Durrah, Wheeling          | November 26, 1890. |
| Wisconsin ...., ..                   | N. C. Giffin, Don du Lac            | ..                 |
| Wyoming. ....                        | John C. Davis, Rawlins              | October 8          |

# GRAND COMMANDERS,

FROM ORGANIZATION — 1857 — TO 1899.

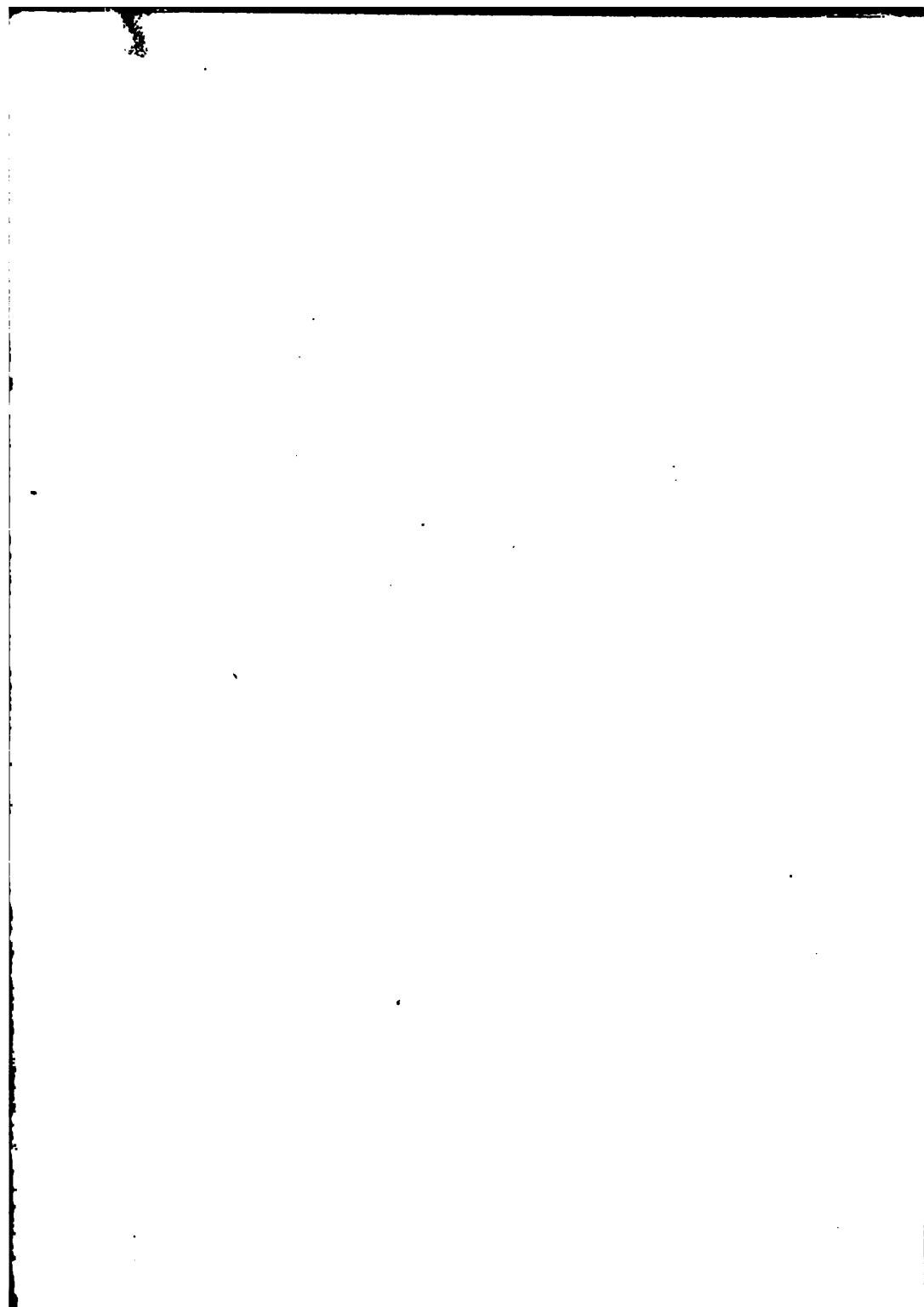
|                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| WILLIAM H. STEVENS.....           | 1857 to 1858—Died October 13, 1866.   |
| GEORGE P. CRUMP .....             | 1858 to 1859—Died 1860.               |
| GILES M. HILLYER.....             | 1859 to 1860—Died April 23, 1871.     |
| HARVEY W. WALTER.....             | 1860 to 1861—Died September 19, 1878. |
| BELJAMIN S. TAPPAN.....           | 1861 to 1866—Died March 1, 1866.      |
| EDWARD LEA.....                   | 1866 to 1867—Died 1878.               |
| CHRISTOPHER A. MANLOVE .....      | 1867 to 1868—Died December 29, 1878.  |
| FLEET C. MERCER.....              | 1869 to 1870—Died January 26, 1885.   |
| JOHN K. FULSON, Water Valley....  | 1869 to 1870                          |
| CHARLES T. BOND.....              | 1870 to 1871—Died December 14, 1872.  |
| WILLIAM S. PATTON.....            | 1871 to 1872—Died July 5, 1889.       |
| E. GEORGE DELAP, Natchez.....     | 1872 to 1873                          |
| E. T. HENRY.....                  | 1873 to 1874—Died April 10, 1881.     |
| PHINEAS M. SAVERY, Tupelo.....    | 1874 to 1875                          |
| GID. W. COX, Columbus .....       | 1875 to 1876                          |
| OLIVER CLIFTON, Jackson .....     | 1876 to 1877                          |
| WILLIAM A. FAIRCHILD .....        | 1877 to 1878—Died September 20, 1878. |
| WILLIAM G. PAXTON .....           | 1878 to 1879—Died October 26, 1889.   |
| CHARLES M. ERWIN.....             | 1879 to 1880                          |
| WILLIAM G. BENBROOK, Natchez..    | 1880 to 1881                          |
| WILLIAM FRENCH.....               | 1881 to 1882—Died April 28, 1884.     |
| JAM. T. MRADE, Birmingham, Ala.   | 1882 to 1883                          |
| H. M. ROMBERGER, Winona.....      | 1883 to 1884                          |
| W. P. TOWLER .....                | 1884 to 1885—Died March 30, 1893.     |
| JOHN H. GORDON, Port Gibson ..... | 1885 to 1886                          |
| B. A. VAUGHAN.....                | 1886 to 1887—Died November 6, 1898.   |
| N. S. WALKER.....                 | 1887 to 1888—Died August 12, 1895.    |
| FREDERIC SPEED, Vicksburg .....   | 1888 to 1890                          |
| JAMES J. HAYES, Vicksburg.....    | 1890 to 1891                          |
| J. L. LEIGH .....                 | 1891 to 1892—Died November 7, 1891.   |
| W. A. BODENHAMER, Okolona.....    | 1892 to 1893                          |
| S. W. FERGUSON, Greenville.....   | 1893 to 1894                          |
| J. C. FRENCH, M. D., Natchez..... | 1894 to 1895                          |
| FRANK P. JINKINS, Aberdeen... ..  | 1895 to 1896                          |
| J. M. BUCHANAN, M. D.....         | 1896 to 1897                          |
| JAMES T. HARRISON, Columbus ...   | 1897 to 1898                          |
| WILLIAM ST. ARLING, Greenville... | 1898 to 1899                          |
| JOAN S. COBB .....                | 1899 to 1900                          |

## HONORARY PAST GRAND COMMANDERS.

|                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| L. POWELL, P. E. C.....   | Mississippi, No. 1—Elected in 1891 |
| HN D. MILES, P. E. C..... | Magnolia, No. 2—Elected in 1892    |
| US J. BAHIN, P. E. C..... | Rosalie, No. 5—Elected in 1896     |

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# *Grand Officers,*

## *1899-1900.*

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|                            |                |                             |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| JOHN S. COBB.....          | Verona.....    | Grand Commander.            |
| REV. JOHN A. B. JONES..... | Magnolia ..... | Deputy Grand Commander.     |
| OLIVER L. MCKAY.....       | Aberdeen ..... | Grand Generalissimo.        |
| HARRY T. HOWARD.....       | Biloxi.....    | Grand Captain-General.      |
| REV. B. D. WADDELL.....    | Meridian ..... | Grand Prelate.              |
| GUS J. BAHIN.....          | Natches .....  | Grand Treasurer.            |
| J. L. POWER.....           | Jackson .....  | Grand Recorder.             |
| FRANK BURKITT.....         | Okolona .....  | Senior Grand Warden.        |
| R. H. HENRY .....          | Jackson .....  | Junior Grand Warden.        |
| J. F. DIXON .....          | Natchez .....  | Grand Standard Bearer.      |
| G. C. MYERS.. .....        | Holly Springs. | Grand Sword Bearer.         |
| NOLAN STEWART.....         | Jackson .....  | Grand Warder.               |
| A. J. PECK.....            | Meridian ..... | Grand Captain of the Guard. |

---

### *Standing and Special Committees.*

- TEMPLAR LAW—Frederic Speed, P. G. C., Vicksburg; P. M. Savery, P. G. C., Tupelo; W. A. Bodenhamer, P. G. C., Okolona.
- FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—E. G. DeLap, P. G. C., Natchez, Reporter.
- NEXT TRIENNIAL GRAND EVCAMPMENT—E. N. Thomas, C. W. Gibson, E. J. Martin, Harry T. Howard, J. C. French, P. G. C.
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*The Fortieth Annual Conclave will be held in Meridian, on  
Monday, February 19, 1900, commencing  
at 10 o'clock a. m.*



